RD & W 1995

British Birds

Editorial Board
R. J. Chandler
R. A. Hume
M. A. Ogilvie
R. J. Prytherch
J. T. R. Sharrock

Photographic Consultants
Don Smith and Roger Tidman

Art Consultants
Robert Gillmor and Alan Harris

Volume 85
1992

British Birds Ltd

Editorial Staff

Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (Managing Editor), David A. Christie (Assistant Editor), Mrs Sheila D. Cobban (Personal Assistant to Dr Sharrock), Mrs Sue Holden (to 9th April) & Mrs Bonny Shirley (from 13th April)

Circulation Staff

Mrs Erika Sharrock (Circulation Manager), Mrs Alison Gathercole & Mrs Bonny Shirley

Rarities Committee

P. G. Lansdown (Chairman), Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, A. R. Dean (to 31st March), Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge (from 1st April); Peter Colston (Museum Consultant & Archivist); Peter Fraser (Statistician); Michael J. Rogers (Honorary Secretary)

Behaviour Notes Panel

Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons

Identification Notes Panel

Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, R. A. Hume, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe



'BRITISH BIRDS' STAFF. Left to right, Mrs Erika Sharrock, Mrs Alison Gathercole, Mrs Bonny Shirley, Mrs Sheila Cobban, David A. Christie and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, London, June 1992 (*Roger Tidman*)

British Birds

Volume 85 (1992) Main contents

JANUARY

2 Conservation: The Prime Minister's personal views *Rt Hon. John Major MP*
6 European news
16 Influx of Little Egrets in Britain and Ireland in 1989 *Pete Combridge and Chris Parr*
21 Identification pitfalls and assessment problems *11* Little Egret *R. A. Hume*
28 County, regional and bird observatory recorders in Britain and Ireland

FEBRUARY

53 The new DNA-DNA avian classification: what's it all about? *Dr Burt L. Monroe, Jr*
62 Identification of Lanceolated Warbler *Nick Riddiford and Paul V. Harvey*

MARCH

97 Partial breeding failure of Audouin's Gull in two Spanish colonies in 1991 *A. M. Paterson, A. Martínez Vilalta and J. I. Dies*
102 Seasonal reports Autumn 1991 Part 1: non-passerines *Keith Allsopp and Barry Nightingale*
108 Moussier's Redstart: new to Britain and Ireland *Mike Barrett*
117 The Rare Breeding Birds Panel *Robert Spencer and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel*

APRIL

141 Raptor migration at Eilat *Hadoram Shirihai and David A. Christie*

MAY

201 Seasonal reports Autumn 1991 Part 2: passerines *Barry Nightingale and Keith Allsopp*
211 Overseas bird tours survey *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*
251 First-summer Hobbies in the New Forest *Brian Small*

JUNE

263 English names of West Palearctic birds *T. P. Inskipp and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock on behalf of the BOU Records Committee and 'British Birds'*
293 Bird Photograph of the Year *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr R. J. Chandler and Don Smith*
299 The 'British Birds' Best Annual Bird Report Award *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr R. J. Chandler and Robert Gillmor*

JULY

337 Blackburnian Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic *David Saunders and Mrs Shirley Saunders*
344 Breeding-range and population changes of waders in the former Soviet Union *Dr Pavel S. Tomkovich*
370 Lesser Scaup: new to the Western Palearctic *J. J. Holian and J. E. Fortey*

AUGUST

415 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and 'The Richard Richardson Award' *Robert Gillmor, Alan Harris, Keith Shackleton and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*
426 Great Knot: new to Britain and Ireland *Peter M. Ellis*
431 Long-toed Stint: new to Britain and Ireland *John B. Dunnett*
437 Identification pitfalls and assessment problems *12* Surf Scoter *Alan Brown*
443 European news

SEPTEMBER

469 Nest-site selection by Golden Eagles in Scotland *Dr J. Watson and R. H. Dennis*
482 Seasonal reports Winter 1991/92 *Keith Allsopp and Barry Nightingale*
491 Identification pitfalls and assessment problems *13* Pallas's Warbler *G. P. Catley*

OCTOBER

507 Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1991 *Michael J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee*

NOVEMBER

578 Dispersal and age of first breeding of Buzzards in Central Wales *P. E. Davis and J. E. Davis*
587 Identification pitfalls and assessment problems *14* Crane *Iain S. Robertson*
595 Golden-winged Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic *Paul Doherty*
600 Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs *Don Smith, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock and Roger Tidman*
612 The 'British Birds' Best Bird Book of the Year
613 PhotoSpot *33* White-breasted Kingfisher *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

DECEMBER

631 Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland Part 1. Numbers during 1986-90: seabirds to waders *P. A. Fraser and Dr J. F. Ryan*
636 Seasonal reports Spring 1992 *Barry Nightingale and Keith Allsopp*
653 Field identification of Black-faced Bunting *Dr Colin Bradshaw*
677 Studies of West Palearctic birds *191* Azores Bullfinch *Dr Colin J. Bibby, Trevor D. Charlton and Jaime Ramos*



WINNER, BIRD ILLUSTRATOR OF THE YEAR 1992 (see pages 415-424): Wood Warbler (*John Gale*)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 1 January 1992



BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
17 JAN 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Conservation: *John Major*

European news

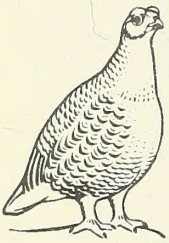
Influx of Little Egrets in 1989

Identification of Little Egrets

stery photographs · County bird recorders · Monthly marathon
Reviews · Notes · Fieldwork action · News and comment
Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, A. R. Dean, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume & J. H. Marchant; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984): names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

04 HIGH STREET
ARNET, HERTS.
N5 5SZ
PEN 7 DAYS
am-6pm
HONE 081-449 1445
HONE 081-441 7748
AX: 081-440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK

T BRIARFIELDS HOTEL, TITCHWELL

When new goods to the alue of £400 or over are purchased

Phone for details

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

WINTER FIELD EVENT PROGRAMME

The ideal way to test optics for birdwatching is to watch birds! Our field events at well known Reserves countrywide will enable customers to test and select from our complete range of equipment. Information packs are available on all events – please apply in writing or by phone. Two day events are usually run on an appointment basis and preference will be given to those with an advanced booking. All events open between 10 am - 4 pm daily

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1991

LEA VALLEY WINTER BIRDWATCH, FISHERS GREEN SUN 5th JAN.	BOWLING GREEN MARSH, EXETER SAT 4th & SUN 5th JAN.	LEMSFORD SPRINGS HERTS. SUN 12th JAN.
BARONS HAUGH MOTHERWELL SAT 18th & SUN 19th JAN.	ABBERTON, ESSEX SUNDAY 19th JAN.	ADUR ESTUARY SHOREHAM SAT 25th & SUN 26th JAN.
GRAFHAM WATER CAMBS. SAT 1st & SUN 2nd FEB.	BLACKTOFT SANDS HUMBERSIDE SAT 15th & SUN 16th FEB.	CHEW VALLEY LAKE AVON SAT 23rd & SUN 24th FEB.

USCH & LOMB £
e 8x42BGA ... 629.00
e 10x42BGA ... 629.00
stom 8x36B ... 229.00
stom 10x40BGA ... 249.00
jacy 8x24 ... 89.00
e 22x60B ... 289.00
e 22x60BGA ... 309.00
e 15x-45x60BGA ... 349.00

ICA £
ovid 8x20BC ... 199.00
ovid 10x25BC ... 226.00
ovid 8x20BCA ... 226.00
ovid 10x25BCA ... 239.00
se for Mini ... 15.00
ovid 7x42BA ... 628.00
ovid 8x42BA ... 628.00
ovid 10x42BA ... 628.00

RL ZEISS £
signer 8x20BT*P ... 295.00
signer 10x25BT*P ... 319.00
lyt 8x20B ... 236.00
lyt 10x25B ... 259.00
lyt 8x20BGA ... 305.00
lyt 8x30BGAT ... 509.00
lyt 7x42BGAT ... 589.00
lyt 10x40BGAT ... 599.00
lyt 10x40BT ... 639.00
lyt 8x56BGAT ... 729.00
60 Porro GAT ... 1190.00
essories
nguard ... 8.00
Cups (Set) ... 16.00
Cups Hard (Set) ... 16.00
yard ... 5.00
le Lanyard ... 15.00
re Case from ... 19.00

ON £
0CFIII ... 69.00
5CFIII ... 79.00
3CFII ... 85.00
25CFII ... 89.00
0DCF ... 135.00
25DCF ... 150.00
0DCF ... 249.00
36DCF ... 279.00
0DCF ... 539.00
0DCF ... 199.00
5E ... 199.00
0E ... 229.99
35E ... 249.00
35CF ... 229.00
12x24DCF ... 329.00
dscope II 20x60 ... 304.00
dscope II 20x-45x ... 379.00
dscope ED II 20x60 ... 555.00
45x60 ... 629.00
& 20x ... 65.00
& 40x ... 65.00
... 65.00
45x Zoom ... 147.00
a Multi Coat Filter ... 20.00
ber Hood ... 10.00
to Kit ... 168.00
on Case ... 45.00

Spotting scope 20x60GA ... 199.00
15x-45x60GA ... 265.00
20x ... 34.95
15-45x Zoom ... 100.00

SWIFT £
County 10x40 ... 89.00
Triton 10x50 ... 99.00
Trilyte 7x42BGA ... 132.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA ... 135.00
Trilyte 10x42BGA ... 139.00
Audubon HR5 ... 199.00
Audubon 7x35BGA ... 329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body ... 149.00
15-45x Zoom ... 49.00
20x ... 20.00
Case ... 15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with:
50x-80x Hood, Case ... 2200.00
30x-50x ... 120.00
80x-130x ... 120.00
Erector Pnsm ... 289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA ... 227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA ... 257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA ... 246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA ... 249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA ... 268.00
Touring 8x32BGA ... 395.00
Touring 7x42BGA ... 445.00
Touring 10x40BGA ... 445.00
TBS HD Body ... 549.00
TBG HD Body ... 549.00
TBS Body ... 358.00
TBG Body ... 358.00
20x WA ... 122.00
30x WA ... 77.00
30x WW ... 135.00
40x WA ... 77.00
22x-60x Zoom ... 159.00
Soft Case ... 29.00
Hard Case ... 35.00
Stay-on Case for TGS/TBG ... 45.00

KOWA £
TS-601 ... 179.00
TS-602 ... 179.00
20xWA ... 55.00
25xWA ... 48.00
20x-60x Zoom ... 99.00
Case ... 19.95
TSN-1 ... 295.00
TSN-2 ... 295.00
TSN-3 ... 555.00
TSN-4 ... 555.00
20x-60x Zoom ... 139.00
20xWA ... 96.00
25x ... 63.00
30xWA ... 119.00
40x ... 63.00
60x ... 96.00
77x ... 99.00
Skua Case ... 39.95
Rear Dust Dome ... 15.00
Spare O G Cover ... 6.00
27xWA (Screw Fit) ... 59.00

Screw/Bay Adaptor ... 15.00
Case for TSN ... 24.95
Photo Adaptor 800mm ... 107.00
Photo Adaptor 1200mm ... 179.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30 ... 44.00
Vega II 8x40 ... 49.00
HR 8x32MC ... 142.00
HR 7x42MC ... 146.00
HR 8x42MC ... 148.00
HR 10x42MC ... 153.00
HR 10x50 MC ... 171.00
HR Body 80mm ... 255.00
30xWA ... 32.00
27x-80x Zoom ... 78.00
HR Body, 22x & Case ... 164.95
HR GA, 22x & Case ... 174.95
HR 45°, 22x & Case ... 204.95
HR Body, 20x-60x & Case ... 204.95
HR GA, 20x-60x & Case ... 214.95
HR 45°, 20x-60x & Case ... 234.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA ... 32.00
Classic IF60 ... 110.00
18xWA ... 24.00
25x ... 24.00
25x HP ... 27.00
18x-40x Zoom ... 61.00
Classic IF 75mm ... 140.00
22xWA ... 24.00
30x ... 27.00
22x-47x Zoom ... 61.00
Piccolo ... 128.00
Eyepieces from ... 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60 ... 355.00
Piccolo ED 20x-60x60 ... 399.00
Photo Kits ... from 30.00
Cases for Scopes ... 15.00
Macro Monocular ... 50.00

MIRADOR £
8x32B ... 110.00
7x42B ... 112.00
8x42B ... 113.00
10X42B ... 115.00
10x50B ... 127.00
Merlin 60mmx25 ... 97.00
Merlin 18x-40x60 ... 129.00
Merlin 75mmx30 ... 119.00
Merlin 22x-47x75 ... 157.00
Case for Merlin ... 15.00

REDFIELD £
7x35BA ... 199.00
10x50BA ... 249.00
20-45x60GA ... 299.95

PENTAX £
8x40PCF ... 99.95
10x50PCF ... 104.95
12x50PCF ... 109.95

BRESSER £
Action 8x40 ... 69.00
Action 10x50 ... 79.00
Linear 8x42 ... 119.00
Linear 10x42 ... 124.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B ... 139.95
Hanover 10x42B ... 149.95

Regent 8x42B ... 169.95
Kensington 10x42B ... 179.95

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS
Opticron 20x80 ... 390.00
Opticron 30x80 ... 395.00

HABICHT £
10x40 Diana ... 372.00
7x30SLC ... 353.00
8x30 SLC ... 365.00
8x20B ... 220.00
AT80 Body ... 547.00
22xWA ... 72.00
32xWA ... 72.00
20x-60x Zoom ... 164.00
Case ... 93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body ... 145.00
Spacemaster Body GA ... 165.00
15x-45x Zoom ... 49.00
22xWA ... 32.00
Case ... 15.00
Photo kit ... 30.00

VELBON £
New Fluid Head Tripods
Victory 350 ... 39.95
D-500 ... 59.95
D600 ... 69.95
D700 ... 79.95

CULLMANN £
Hide Clamp ... 49.95
Shoulder Pod ... 24.95
O/R System ... 9.95
O/R Plate ... 4.95

SLIK £
Master D-2 ... 72.95

MANFROTTO £
055 Base ... 70.00
055B Base ... 75.00
190 Base ... 40.00
190B Base ... 45.00
144 Base ... 50.00
144B Base ... 55.00
128 Head ... 45.00
200 Head ... 50.00
Tripod Strap ... 10.95
Spare Q/R Plate ... 5.95

ACCESSORIES £
Car Window Mount ... 22.00
Universal Mount ... 22.00
Hide Clamp ... 38.00
Rainguards from ... 3.50
Pentax Cleaning Kit ... 3.99
Tripod Strap ... 6.95
Lanyards ... from 4.00
Dust Away ... 3.95
Double Eyepiece Case ... 9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case ... 24.50

Also in stock Binoculars from Fujinon, Ranger, Adlerblick, Minolta etc.

IN FOCUS CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a period of 3 years from purchase. In the event of equipment failing for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. Compare Zeiss with Leitz and Bausch & Lomb, Kowa with Nikon and Optolyth. We are a completely independent company, whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa Cards will be despatched same day.

MAIL ORDER
Just add £2 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

SECONDHAND
Instruments are always available. Turnover is fast so we do not print a list. Phone for information.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes.

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK) We are 500 yds east of the RSPB Reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster, and we have our own private car parking.

HOW TO FIND US (BARNET) We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

TELESCOPES AND TRIPOD OUTFITS
If you purchase a scope and tripod at the same time we can offer you a very special price!

PHONE FOR A QUOTE

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED Zeiss, Leitz, Kowa and Nikon products Phone or write for details.

VISA

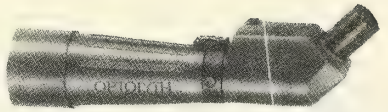
ANNUAL SALE OF DEMONSTRATION EQUIPMENT

KOWA, OPTOLYTH, NIKON, ZEISS, B&L, LEICA, etc. First come first served

E&OE

(D959)

JANUARY SALE - TAKE 5% OFF
ALL PRICES BELOW!



BINOCULARS

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£236
10 x 25 B	£259
8 x 20 BGA	£305
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£509
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£589
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£729
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£599
7 x 50 BGAT* P	£599
8 x 20B (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B (New Style)	£320

PLUS Phone For Special Demo-Stock Prices!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	PRICE INCLUDES LEATHER CASE	£199
8 x 20 BCA		£226
10 x 25 BC		£226
10 x 25 BCA		£239
7 x 42 BA	ALL FROM STOCK	£628
8 x 42 BA		£628
10 x 42 BA		£628

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£450
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£460
Alpin 8 x 30	£205
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£225
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£230
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£241
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£247

Old Prices Held While Stocks Last!

OPTICRON

10 X 25 Sporting – One Only	£159
Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£89.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£89.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£138
MCF 7 x 24 Compact	£75
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£75
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£79
HR 8 x 24	£89
DWCF 8 x 24 Compact	£148
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£110
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£112
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£113
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£115
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£127
HR 8 x 32 MC	£135
HR 7 x 42 MC	£143
HR 8 x 42 MC	£145
HR 10 x 42 MC	£150
HR 10 x 50 MC	£167
Minerva 8 x 30	£165
Minerva 8 x 40	£170
Minerva 10 x 40	£175
Elite 9 x 35	£156
7 x 50 Waterproof	£179

Old Prices Held While Stocks Last

SWIFT

Saratoga 8 x 42	ONE ONLY	£129
Osprey 7.5 x 42	ONE ONLY	£135
Audubon 8.5 x 44 B		£199
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism	ONE ONLY	£269

SWAROVSKI OPTIC – THE NATURAL CHOICE

* SUPERB OPTICS
* BEAUTIFULLY MADE
* ALL MODELS FULLY *WATERTIGHT*

8 x 20 B Roof Prism	£215
8 x 30 SV WB Roof Prism	£365
8 x 30 WM	£299
10 x 40 WM	£365
10 x 40 WM GA	£399

Demo-Stock Clearance – 25% off these prices

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Turmon 8 x 21 Monocular		£49.95
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£119.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 B	~~£209.95~~	£169.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50	—	£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
NEW 8 X 24 Compact	£99
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£629
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629

Custom 8 x 36 B	£189.95
Custom 10 x 40 B	£199.95
Custom 10 x 40 B Armoured	£249.95

Demo-Stock Clearance – 25% off these prices

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199

HANIMEX

8 x 21 Compact	£29.95
10 x 25 Compact	£39.95

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7-15 x 35 Zoom	£119
7 x 21 x 50 Zoom	£139

SCOPES

GREENKAT

Kestrel 20 x 60 Waterproof	£209
Kestrel 30 x 60 Waterproof	£219

KOWA

Kowa Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices

TSN-601 Body	£179
TSN-602 Body	£179
TSN 1 Body	£295
TSN 2 Body	£295
TSN 3 Body	£555
TSN 4 Body	£556
20 x WA	£96
25 x	£63
30 x WA	£119
40 x	£63
20-60 x Zoom	£139

SCOPES

NIKON

Nikon Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices!

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x	£379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x	£554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x	£629.95

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 18-40 & Case	£159
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£169
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60x & Case	£209
HR 60 Angled c/w 22x W & Case	£199
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60x & Case	£229
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£158
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£196
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£385
20-60 x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£76
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£32
25 x HR Eyepiece	£30
40 x HR Eyepiece	£30

Old Prices Held While Stocks Last!

OPTOLYTH

Optolyth Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices!

TBS 80 Body	£350
TBG 80 Body	£350
20 x W	£100
30 x	£64
40 x	£65
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£150
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

SWAROVSKI

AT 80 Body	£547
22 x WA	£72
20-60 x Zoom	£164

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£190

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Velbon D-400	£44.95
Velbon Victory 480	£49.95
Velbon D-500	£49.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95
Vanguard VT-528	£59.95

Most Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

SECONDHAND

Binos

Swift 7 x 50 Skipper	£69
Zeiss Notarem 8 x 32B	£109
Heron 8 x 40	£39
Panorama Merlin 8 x 40	£49

Scopes

Kowa TS-2 c/w 22 x	£149
Optolyth TB80 c/w 20 x, case	£289
Nikon ED c/w 20-45 x, case	£439
Optolyth TB G/S 40 x eyepiece	£39

London Camera Exchange

SOUTHAMPTON 0703 221597/335363
10 High Street, Southampton SO1 0DH
(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen)



PRICE PROMISE
match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ 14-day home trial scheme on all optical equipment.
- ☆ Best prices guaranteed, and discount for RSPB members on SELECTED ITEMS.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Fast Mail Order service available.
 (Trakbak Insured Parcel Post, normally £3 extra , £5 extra for heaviest packages)
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- ☆ Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

Access

VISA

(D958)

New for 1992, the bigger and even better

BIRDING WORLD

Now 50% larger and 100% more colour

and still the cheapest subscription-only quality bird magazine



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (12 ISSUES): £25 (£31 OVERSEAS/£53 AIRMAIL OUTSIDE EUROPE)

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER (6 MONTH TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION): £12.50 (£15.50 OVERSEAS)

I enclose ☐ £25 ☐ £31 ☐ £53 ☐ £12.50 ☐ 15.50 (cheques to Birding World please)

To Birding World, Stonerunner, Coast Road, Cley next the Sea, Holt, Norfolk, England NR27 7RZ

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

POSTCODE TELEPHONE (D956)

THE PIED FLYCATCHER

Arne Lundberg
and Rauno Alatalo



The Pied Flycatcher is one of the classic species, the subject of research over many decades in many parts of northern Europe. Recent work by the authors has built on this background and looked particularly at the influence of plumage variations on mating success, the details of singing behaviour, and territoriality and breeding systems.

February 1992,
£18.00 (tentative) c.270 pages,
ISBN: 0.85661.072.0

Available from all good booksellers or

T & A D POYSER
24-28 Oval Road
London NW1 7DX
Telephone: 071-267-4466

(D965)

For great birding...

Sunbirder
Birding package holidays

...the only way to go!

EILAT	11-18/25 MARCH FROM	**£435**	Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke
HONG KONG	2-12 APRIL FROM	**£1060**	Leaders: Jon Dunn and Steve Rooke
BIEDAIHE	2-18/25 MAY FROM	**£1150**	Leaders: Paul Holt and Martin Williams
POINT PELEE	9-23 MAY FROM	**£1000**	Leaders: Sean McMinn and Stu Tingley

Details from Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. Tel: 0767-682969.
(Please specify which event you are interested in).

(D951)

NATURETREK

BIRDING TREKS & TOURS
in

NEPAL · KASHMIR
LADAKH · ZANSKAR
BHUTAN · CHINA
ROMANIA · PYRENEES
INDIA · INDONESIA
MALAYSIA · TURKEY
GREECE · CYPRUS
KENYA · TANZANIA
EGYPT · ETHIOPIA
BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA
AUSTRALIA · MALAWI
NAMIBIA · MOROCCO
RWANDA · ZAIRE
GALAPAGOS · CRETE
NEW ZEALAND
NEWFOUNDLAND

Independent Travel · Tailor-made Tours · Private Safaris · Flights
For our brochure/expert advice phone **0962 733051**
CHAUTARA, BIGHTON, Nr.ALRESFORD, HANTS. SO24 9RB

(D917)

(NATURAL HISTORY)
17 JAN 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY

NOW OPEN ON SUNDAYS

10am-4pm (Closed on Mondays)

IT IS DIFFICULT TO TURN A HIDE INTO A SHOP, BUT WE HAVE TURNED OUR SHOWROOM INTO A HIDE.

Call to take full advantage of our superb viewing facilities!

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

Wide range
Top quality
Discount prices

We also stock:
QUESTAR • FUJINON • FUMOTO
MIRADOR • BRESSER • PENTAX
REDFIELD • OPTIMA • PRAKTICA

ZEISS WEST

10x40 BGAT*P	599.00
7x42 BGAT*P	589.00
8x30 BGAT*P	509.00
Design selection	
8x20 BT*P	295.00
10x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

Trinovid 8x20 BCA	226.00
Trinovid 10x25 BCA	239.00
7x42 BA	628.00
8x42 BA	628.00
10x42 BA	628.00

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8x40 BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40 BGA	249.00
Taurine 10x40	445.00
TBS/G 80 Body	390.00
TBS/G Fluorite	549.00
22x-60x zoom EP	159.00
20x WA	122.00
30x WA	135.00

NIKON

7x20 CF II	69.95
8x30 ECF	229.00
10x35 ECF	249.00
Fieldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
Spotting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
20-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

Multicoat 8x42	169.95
Multicoat 10x42	179.95
Multicoat 10x50	198.95
Add £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	179.00
TS 602 Body	179.00
20x WA	54.00
25x40x	47.00
20x-60x zoom EP	94.00
Case for 601 and 602	19.95
TSN-1 Body	295.00
TSN-2 Body	295.00
TSN-3 Body	555.00
TSN-4 Body	555.00
20x WA	96.00
30x WA	119.00
25x40x	63.00
20x-60x zoom EP	139.00
Case for TSN 1and 2	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor	107.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 60mm	102.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x	24.00
18-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R. Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	440.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 8x42 RA	629.00
Elite 10x42 RA	629.00
Elite Telescope 22x60 RA	309.00
Elite Telescope 15-42x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	165.00
15-45x zoom EP	49.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	199.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

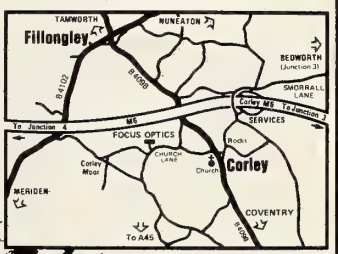
MANFROTTO 144 Legs	52.00
190 Legs	41.00
055 Legs	72.00
200 Video Head	52.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK Q2	72.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	14.95
Shoulder Pod	25.95

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic.

Send for a price list or come and browse!



Focus Optics - The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in seven acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

BARCLAYCARD VISA

* OPENING TIMES
Tue–Sat 9am–5pm
SUNDAY 10am–4pm

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA

Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

(D962)

Kay Optical

Est. 1962

081-648 8822 (24 HR)

FAX: 081-687 2021

1st Floor, 89(B) London Road,
MORDEN, Surrey, SM4 5HP.

OPEN
MON – SAT 9am – 5pm
(Lunch 1–2pm Mon-Fri)

Sales & Servicing of:
BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS, etc
VIEWING FACILITIES for the best equipment.
COMPETITIVE PRICES. LONG-ESTABLISHED WORKSHOP.
CALLERS WELCOME. PHONE/MAIL ORDER SERVICE.

PACKAGE DEALS
Special prices arranged for multi-purchases. We also try to match any genuine offers.

(Bracket prices while stocks last)

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	259
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	509
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	589
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	599
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	669
BAUSCH & LOMB	
8 x 42 BA Elite	629
10 x 42 BA Elite	629
Custom 8 x 36 B	229
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
22 x 60 B Elite Scope	289
22 x 60 BGA Elite Scope	309
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
SWAROVSKI *	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
10 x 40 Diana	372
AT80 scope (body)	535
22x (WA) eyepiece	70
20–60x zoom eyepiece	160
AT80 case	91
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	226
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	226
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	239
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	628
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	628
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	628
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	239
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	199
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	199
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	229
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	40
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA *	
TSN-1 (45°) body	295
TSN-2 body	295
TSN-3 body	555
TSN-4 body	555
25x or 40x eyepiece	63
20x (WA) eyepiece	96
30x (WA) eyepiece	119
20–60x zoom eyepiece	139
60x eyepiece	96
77x eyepiece	99
Camera adaptor 800mm	107
Camera adaptor 1200mm	179
Kowa case	24
Weathershield case	38
Spare OG cover	5
27x (WA) eyepiece (Screw fit)	59
Eyepiece dust dome	15
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope with zoom EP	199
OPTOLYTH *	
8 x 30 Alpin (205)	227
8 x 40 Alpin (225)	246
10 x 40 Alpin (230)	249
10 x 50 Alpin (241)	268
12 x 50 Alpin (247)	273
7 x 42 Alpin (238)	257
TBG80 telescope body (350)	390
TBS 80 (45°) body (350)	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece (119)	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece (65)	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece (150)	159
TB nylon case (35)	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
15–45x zoom EP	49
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	199
10 x 50 RA roof prism	249
GREENKAT *	
FFS 7 x 35 Focus Free	69
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
OBSERVATION	
Vixen 20 x 100	750
Vixen 30 x 80	375
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215
MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81
NIGHT VISION	
Redscan infra-red scope, complete	705
Mains charger	71
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	1,790
ROSS	
6 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D2	73
Slik SL67	107
Manfrotto 144/200	105
Manfrotto 144/128	100
Manfrotto 190/200	93
Soligor 550	40
Universal clamp	23
Hide clamp II	38
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	50
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps from	7
T-mounts, from	10

★ **SHORT-TERM INTEREST-FREE CREDIT** available on £150 and over (three payments).
★ **REPAIRS** carried out in our own workshops (our policy is to get your optics bird-watch operational with minimal delay).

FREE TRIPOD WORTH £40.
(SOLIGOR) with certain * telescopes or pay the extra for different tripod.

FIELD DAYS: Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. We will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in.

★PAGHAM HARBOUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE on the B2145 into Selsey (nr Chichester, W. Sussex) on **SUNDAYS 22nd December, 26th January** and **23rd February** (10.30am to 4.00pm approx.)

★WARNHAM NATURE RESERVE just off the A24 (northern roundabout for HORSHAM) on the B2237, on **SUNDAYS 12th January** and **9th February** (10.30am to 5.00pm)

★SEVENOAKS WILDFOWL RESERVE, on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball Station, on **SUNDAYS 5th January** and **2nd February** (10.00am to 4.00pm)

★BOUGH BEECH NATURE RESERVE/RESERVOIR, about, 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the oast house Information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **SUNDAYS 19th January** and **16th February,** 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

We are only 15 minutes' drive from the M25 (e.g. via the A3 and then the Merton Turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
Parking: 1st left past our entrance (50 yds).

Access VISA (D955)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1992



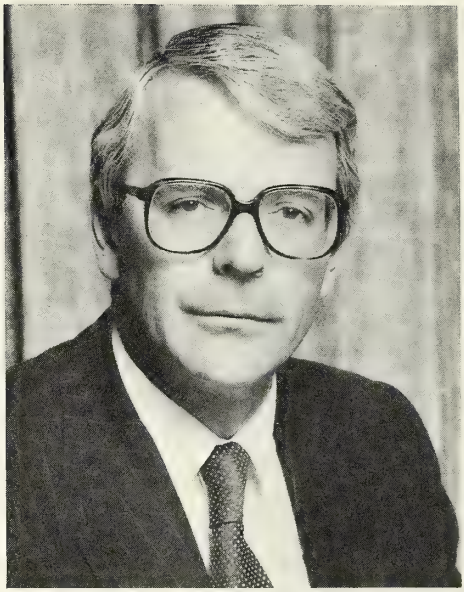
Editorial

In spring 1989, we invited the leaders of each of Britain's three main political parties to explain their personal views on 'Conservation' within the pages of *British Birds*. In October 1989, we published articles by Paddy Ashdown, Neil Kinnock and Margaret Thatcher (*Brit. Birds* 82: 434-436, 436-439, 440-441). Following the election of John Major as the new leader of the Conservative Party in late autumn 1990, we invited him, in July 1991, to give us his personal views on the subject. These appear now, on pages 2-5.

With a General Election looming ahead, readers may care not only to read the contribution from the Prime Minister, but also to reread the earlier articles by his two main protagonists. Increasingly, the future of the world's wildlife is in the hands of the world's politicians, and depends upon our leaders' sympathy for and understanding of environmental requirements, and the relative priorities given by them to long-term conservation of wildlife and the world's natural resources, on the one hand, and short-term human needs, which may result in exploitation or incidental damage, on the other. The influence of the British Prime Minister in these matters extends far beyond the shores of the United Kingdom. Nowadays, nobody with concern for birds, wildlife and conservation should fail to take an active part in politics. Our voices and our votes can affect the future.

Conservation

The Prime Minister's personal views



The past ten years have been the decade of the environment. In that short time, environmental issues have moved from the fringe towards the focus of everyday life and of politics.

Membership of environmental organisations has doubled since 1980, to more than 4 million. The 'green' consumer has appeared. Industry has begun to develop more environmental-benign products and to build up environmental priorities and awareness. Developed and developing countries have begun working together to find practical solutions to new and threatening problems through a new kind of environmental diplomacy.

Meanwhile, there has been an explosion in Government activity to safeguard the environment.

It has always been this Government's policy to integrate concern for the environment into all its decision-taking. In 1990, we took this to its logical conclusion by publishing a White Paper, *This Common Inheritance*, on all of our environmental policies, plans and programmes. The White Paper was the first comprehensive statement of environmental policies by a British government. In it, we went farther than before in two vital ways. We committed ourselves to a code of environmental principles as the basis for all our policies and programmes. And we laid the foundation for regular reports on progress against specific environmental targets and objectives.

We reaffirmed our code of principles in *This Common Inheritance: the first year report*, published in September.

We acknowledge a moral duty of stewardship; a duty to look after our planet and hand it on in good order to future generations. We need growth for better and healthier lives, but growth has to respect the environment.

We are pledged to work towards ensuring that, in securing the

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 2-5, January 1992]

development we need for continuing economic growth, we do not sacrifice tomorrow's environment for a short-term gain today.

We will act on facts, and on the most accurate interpretation of them, using the best scientific and economic information. But, where there are significant risks of damage, we will be prepared to take precautionary action if the balance of likely costs and benefits justifies it.

We will make use of the best available instruments to tackle environmental problems, sometimes using regulation and sometimes the market to influence the behaviour of producers and their customers. In either case, the objective should be to make the polluter pay.

We believe in telling people the facts about environmental questions and what they mean, and giving them every opportunity to make their views known. The objective is to raise the level of public debate and hence the quality of environmental decision-making by all concerned.

Responsibility for the environment is shared by us all. Caring for it must become an instinctive characteristic of good citizenship.

Action in Britain alone is not enough. We will play a full part in working out international solutions to environmental problems through bodies like the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Community.

Joint action by the European Community is often required to tackle pollution effectively. We aim to ensure that the standards the community sets protect the environment effectively, are soundly based and are properly monitored and enforced.

Action that we have taken to make these principles a reality includes:

our new system of integrated pollution control for the most potentially polluting processes, the most sophisticated system of control in Europe;

a systematic overhaul of formal guidance on how the planning system should treat the built and natural environment;

leadership in international efforts to understand and fight the causes of global warming, including an accelerated timetable for phasing out greenhouse gases like CFCs and a commitment to precautionary action to limit emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, if others do their part;

proposals for a new Environment Agency to apply pollution-control legislation even more effectively;

harnessing the market by such means as price differentials in favour of unleaded petrol and a revolutionary new scheme of credits to provide incentives for recycling;

introducing public registers to give people better information about pollution and action to control it; and

building the environment into the school curriculum and publishing advice for the ordinary citizen on how he or she can be 'green'.

On the world scene, I hope to attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June this year. I hope to make progress there on measures to counter climate change and preserve tropical forests and biological diversity. I hope that we shall be able to strengthen international institutions responsible for the environment and find ways to help developing countries more effectively in coping with environmental problems.

In Europe, we will continue to support a broad and lively environmental agenda. In the past year alone, the Community has agreed measures on

subjects including sewage treatment, reducing pollution from cars and lorries, and protecting water supplies from nitrate pollution.

You will be particularly concerned about wildlife protection. The 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act has been very successful in protecting our flora and fauna.

Putting the Act into practice is largely the job of the statutory conservation agencies—English Nature, the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland and the Countryside Council for Wales. Government grant to them and their predecessor, the Nature Conservancy Council, rose by 160% in real terms over the past decade. This year, the new agencies will receive almost £66 million. This includes provision for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, through which they carry out those of their functions which apply to Great Britain as a whole, along with their international work.

We also grant-aid voluntary conservation bodies like the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. Following last year's White Paper, *This Common Inheritance*, discussions are going on with national representatives of the voluntary movement on general funding issues and other questions which affect the movement's ability to work with the Government to pursue common aims.

We are determined to fulfil our international obligations under the EC Birds Directive and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance. The recent announcement that the whole of the islands of Skokholm and Skomer are to be a Special Protection Area gives a new impetus for further designations this year and beyond.

Positive steps have been taken to reintroduce some species that have been persecuted almost to the point of extinction. English Nature and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have been able to save the White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* by flying in young birds from Norway and releasing them to the wild in Scotland. In 1985, after ten years, the first young were reared in the wild, a success which has been repeated every year since then.

Another joint project has seen the reintroduction of the Red Kite *Milvus milvus* to parts of England and Scotland where it was exterminated 100 years ago. Only a small breeding population, currently about 60 pairs, had survived in Wales. The Red Kite is one of only three British species whose world populations are endangered. I am delighted to say that, in the last two years, young birds from Sweden and Spain have been released and are flourishing in their former territory.

But, sadly, many of our rarest birds are threatened by the illegal use of pesticides. The vast majority of game-keepers and farmers act responsibly, but a tiny minority use illegal poisoned baits which are unsafe, indiscriminate and cruel. We investigate all incidents and wherever possible we prosecute offenders.

We have launched a campaign to protect wildlife from pesticide abuse. It involves both advising farmers and others on the legal, humane control of pests and also encouraging the public to recognise and report poisoning incidents. If you see anything suspicious, such as suspect bait or

apparently healthy birds fallen dead, you can report the incident to a free emergency number and it will be followed up. The number is 0800-321-600.

We have also announced strict controls over war games, motor sports, and clay-pigeon shooting in SSSIs. This will reduce disturbance to birds.

Farmland, of course, provides the habitats that are so important to the survival and well-being of birds. We therefore need farmers not only to produce our food, but also to look after our countryside and its living resources. In recent years, we have placed far greater emphasis in our agricultural support policies on encouraging greater care of our landscapes and wildlife habitats. The designation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas in which farmers receive payments to maintain traditional farming practices has been particularly beneficial in protecting habitats that favour birds. We are reviewing the scheme and aim to build further on its achievements. In Europe, Britain has been at the forefront in pressing for greater integration of environmental considerations into the European Community's agricultural policies.

Our interest in wildlife does not stop at our own borders. We have supported a substantial strengthening of the controls under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including a ban on the ivory trade for the last two years.

The Government's action on the environment is set out in detail in our September publication *This Common Inheritance: the first year report*. I have made it clear that this is only the first of a series of stewardship reports of Government action. It will be supplemented by regular reports from Departments on their environmental stewardship and objectives, either in their annual reports or elsewhere.

This rolling programme of action, and the rigorous arrangements which we have set up to help us account for our stewardship, are part of the Government's contribution towards safeguarding the environment. But we cannot achieve this on our own. Everyone—business, local authorities, schools, facilities, voluntary groups and individuals—shares the responsibility for ensuring a clean, safe and attractive world for us all to live in. I am grateful to have this chance to invite every reader of *British Birds* to accept a full partnership in that endeavour.

JOHN MAJOR
10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Seventy-five years ago...

'IN the Felsted (Essex) district the Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius c. collurio*) used to be a fairly common bird, but varied considerably in numbers from year to year. In 1911 I saw fourteen nests within quite a small radius of the school. Since then, however, the numbers have decreased very much and in the last five summers have only averaged three to four pairs.' (*Brit. Birds* 10: 175, January 1917).

European news

This thirtieth report includes records from 28 countries. We are pleased to be able to draw attention to the addition of Andorra to the list of countries represented. New contacts in unrepresented West Palearctic countries will be very welcome. The official correspondents whose detailed six-monthly reports are summarised here are acknowledged at the end. This feature is intended as a news service; anyone requiring further information or quoting records in other publications should refer to the literature of the relevant country.

If you have made observations in any of the countries included here, and do not know to whom records should be sent, we suggest that you send a copy of your records to the relevant 'European news' correspondent listed at the end of this summary; for countries not included here, we suggest that you send them to *British Birds*, and we shall do our best to pass them on to the appropriate person.

Records awaiting formal verification by national rarities committees are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Unless otherwise stated, all records refer to single individuals

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* FRANCE First record: one off Corsica on 21st February 1991*. NORWAY Fourth record: adult, ten nautical miles (18.5 km) north of Berlevåg, Finnmark, on 2nd July 1987 (third was on 25th May 1979, *Brit. Birds* 73: 257).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* FINLAND Third record: Asikkala on 27th October 1990 (first and second were on 28th November 1985 and 1st January 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 14). JORDAN First record: Aqaba during 13th-14th May 1991.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* DENMARK Seventh record of race *mauretanicus*: Skagen (N-Jutland) on 12th August 1991*. NORWAY Fourth record of race *mauretanicus*: Donavall, Larvik, Vestfold, on 26th July 1988.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* UKRAINE Census: 44 pairs in Western Ukraine in Ivano-Frankovsk region in 1991 (cf. 22 pairs in 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 2).

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* CYPRUS Vagrant: up to four at Akhna Dam during 4th-6th January 1991 (first record was in August 1982; cf. *Brit. Birds* 83: 222).

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* POLAND First and second records: adult at Rakutowskie Lake, near Włocławek, on 25th August 1990, and adult at Mielno-Unieście, Baltic coast, during 11th-16th October 1990 (cf. records in 1989 and 1990 in France and Hungary, *Brit. Birds* 84: 227).

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* POLAND First record: adult at Wolsztyn on 1st December and one, probably the same, caught with broken wing nearby at Sulechów on 16th December 1990 (origin unknown; cf. recent records in Austria, France and Israel, and increasing occurrence in Egypt, *Brit. Birds* 84: 2).

Frigatebird *Fregata* NORWAY Second record: juvenile or subadult at Saastein, Bamble, Telemark, on 22nd June 1989 (first was in September 1983, *Brit. Birds* 77: 586).

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus* JORDAN First and second records: adults at Aqaba on 13th May 1991 and 5th August 1991. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* UKRAINE First breeding record in Western Ukraine: two pairs in colony of Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* and Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* in Kitsmanski district in Chernivtsi region in June 1991.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* SPAIN Deletion: record during December 1988 to February 1989 (*Brit. Birds*: 83: 9) now rejected.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* CANARY ISLANDS Second record: three immatures on Tenerife during September 1990. FINLAND Third record: two in Puumala on 9th October 1990 (second was in October 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 330). FRANCE Seven at Lattes, Hérault, on 29th April 1991*; up to seven in Camargue in May 1991, with three pairs breeding.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* FINLAND Fifth record: Vaasa on 6th June 1985 (October 1985 record, *Brit. Birds* 79: 286, now becomes sixth).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* MOROCCO Second record this century: Massa on 29th November 1990* (first was in 1984, *Brit. Birds* 78: 639).

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* SPAIN Steady decline of wintering population: 134 in January 1990 compared with 3,800 in 1981.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* NORWAY Second record: adult at Smøla, Møre & Romsdal, during 7th-9th July 1989 (first was in June 1985, *Brit. Birds* 82: 322; cf. first Lithuanian record in May 1985, *Brit. Birds* 84: 228).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* LATVIA First breeding record: spring 1991. LITHUANIA First to fifth records: ten near Palanga on 20th December 1981 and near Klaipeda during 25th December 1981 to 7th January 1982; Nemunas Delta in early June 1985; seven in Kaunas city in mid January 1987; six in Klaipeda on 22nd December 1987 and five on 12th January 1988; Kuršiu Marios on 4th March 1988. (Cf. increasing breeding population in Finland, *Brit. Birds* 80: 10.)

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* CYPRUS First record: two at Larnaca Salt-lake on 9th February 1991. POLAND Small influx: four records of seven in total in Silesia during October to December 1990 (11 previous records). SWEDEN Three on Gotland on 23rd April 1991 (usually occurs singly).

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* BELGIUM Vagrant: female at Etang de la Vesdre, near Eupen, on 31st March and 1st April 1991*.

Teal *Anas crecca* BELGIUM Fourth record of Nearctic race *carolinensis*: male at Mechelen, Antwerpen, on 13th-14th May 1990*. CANARY ISLANDS First record of Nearctic race *carolinensis*: male on Tenerife during late April 1991. DENMARK Third to fifth records of Nearctic race *carolinensis*: males at Kelds Nor, Langeland, Fuen, on 15th April 1989, Glaenø Vesterfed, Zealand, on 16th April 1989, and Agger Tange, N-Jutland, on 4th June 1990*.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* FAROE ISLANDS Third record: male and female at Gróthúsvatn, Sandoy, from 10th June to 8th July 1991* (first and second were in November 1972—not 1973 as published in *Brit. Birds* 79: 286—and on 4th November 1980).

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* SPAIN First breeding record in central Spain: adult with young near Daimiel, Ciudad Real, on 29th June 1991 (cf. high numbers and breeding-range expansions in Spain and Morocco, *Brit. Birds* 80: 322; 83: 9).

Scaup *Aythya marila* CANARY ISLANDS First record: female on Tenerife on 23rd February 1990.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* SPAIN First record: adult male at Ensenada de la Insua, La Coruña province, during 12th January to 23rd March 1991*. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Eider *Somateria mollissima* GREECE Largest-ever number: 32 off mouth of River Evros, Thrace, on 10th February 1991.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* LITHUANIA Second record: pair near Nida on 30th March 1990 (first was near Juodkrante on 23rd March 1979; cf. first Latvian record in October 1990 and record numbers in Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 84: 228).

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* LITHUANIA Highest-ever wintering numbers: 800 in Baltic Sea, mainly near Palanga, in winter 1990 (first wintering records were 11 in 1969/70; later, numbers increased: 13 in 1970/71, about 100 in 1973/74, and 426 in 1980/81; cf. recent high numbers in Poland and Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 84: 228).

Goosander *Mergus merganser* BYELORUSSIA First breeding record: eggshells from five eggs and two addled eggs in nest-box on Lake Snudy, Braslav district, Vitebsk region, in May 1991 (cf. first breeding in northern Czechoslovakia in 1977, in Carinthia, Austria, in 1983 and in Ukraine in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 82: 323).

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* SPAIN Continuing expansion: now established at Pedro Muñoz lagoon, central Spain, where two broods recorded in 1990

and four in 1991; first breeding in Valencia region in 1991, at El Hondo lagoon, Alicante (cf. previous range-expansion and increases, *Brit. Birds* 84: 4).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* GIBRALTAR Fourth record: 4th May 1991* (second was on 6th April 1986 and third, not second as published *Brit. Birds* 82: 324, was on 8th May 1988). SWITZERLAND First record: near Geneva on 29th April 1990.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* UKRAINE Census: 36 pairs, including 24 pairs nesting and 12 pairs suspected nesting, in 1989 (cf. censuses in Byelorussia, Finland, east Germany and Hungary, *Brit. Birds* 84: 4, 229).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* UKRAINE Census: 1,200 pairs in Western Ukraine in 1986.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* UKRAINE Census: eight pairs in Western Ukraine in 1986.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* UKRAINE Census: 60 pairs in Western Ukraine in 1986.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* UKRAINE Recolonisation after 30 years: nests of two pairs in Hotinsky district of Chernivtsi region during 1989-91 (cf. increase in east Germany, *Brit. Birds* 82: 324).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* SWITZERLAND Decline: marked decrease in lowlands over past 30 years (estimated total population: less than 3,000 pairs).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* SWITZERLAND Large influx: two sites with about 100 roosting at each in early May 1989 (cf. influxes then in Denmark and France, *Brit. Birds* 83: 10).

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae* POLAND Third record: pale-phase adult at Turawa Reservoir on 20th September 1990 (first and second were in September 1982 and September 1984, *Brit. Birds* 78: 640).

Coot *Fulica atra* CANARY ISLANDS Highest-ever number wintering: 102 on Fuerteventura in February 1991.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* BYELORUSSIA Nearly extinct: only one pair, nest with two eggs about to hatch, in Bragin district, Gomel region, on 22nd May 1991 (cf. apparent extinction in east Germany, *Brit. Birds* 84: 5). NORWAY Fourth and fifth records: Tveit, Kristiansand, Vest-Agder, on 27th May 1985, and Rostlandet, Rost, Rogaland, on 15th June 1989 (third was in July 1984, *Brit. Birds* 80: 11).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* FRANCE Fifth and sixth records this century: Chatel-la-Neuve, Allier, on 1st September 1990*, and near La Fleche, Sarthe, on 10th October 1990* (fourth was in April 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 11).

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* UKRAINE Third record in West: Roztocha Reserve, L'vov region, in August 1990.

Kittlitz's Sand Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* MOROCCO Date extension: one still present at Merzouga on 14th January 1991 (cf. *Brit. Birds* 84: 5, 229).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* ANDORRA Summer records: male with two juveniles on 24th August 1990, three to four adults on 23rd June 1991 (no evidence of breeding). JORDAN First record: three south of Amman International Airport on 19th October 1990.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* FRANCE Second and third records: adult in summer plumage at Petit-Mars, Loire-Atlantique, on 28th May 1991*, and another at Le Poiré s/Velluire, Vendée, during 31st May to 2nd June 1991* (first was in September 1990*, *Brit. Birds* 84: 230). JORDAN First record: two adults at Samra Sewage-works on 17th August 1990 and one on 24th August 1990.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* DENMARK First record: juvenile at Skagen (N-Jutland) on 18th September 1987 (cf. first in Norway in August 1987, first in Netherlands in June 1989 and first in Sweden in August 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 6).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* ISRAEL First record: one ringed in Eilat on 25th-26th August 1991 (plate 2, on page 11).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* CANARY ISLANDS First record: immature on Tenerife during October 1990.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* DENMARK First and second records: Bygholmsengen, N-Jutland, on 16th August 1989 and juvenile at same site on 25th August 1989 (cf. other 1989 records in Norway in May, and Belgium and the Netherlands in September, *Brit. Birds* 84: 6, 230).

Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* FRANCE Single on Ouessant, Finistère, on 31st May 1991*. GREECE Seven at Evros Delta on 4th April 1988. MOROCCO Three at Merja Zerga from 16th November 1990 to at least 4th February 1991. (We are publishing all records received of this species.)

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* SWEDEN Spring influx: total of 11 in southern Sweden in May-July 1991* (about 90 previous records).

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* FRANCE Fourth record: Belle-Ile, Morbihan, during 22nd-30th September 1990* (third was in April 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 6).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* POLAND First record: Turawa Reservoir on 26th September 1990.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* PORTUGAL Second record: first-winter at Pancas, Tejo Estuary, on 23rd September 1989 (first was one in winter plumage at Castro Marim on 9th April 1988).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* JORDAN First record: Aqaba during 12th-13th May 1991.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* LITHUANIA First record: juvenile on Kretuonas Lake on 28th May 1978.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* DENMARK Date extension: third record was of juvenile at Skagen, N-Jutland, on 20th, 24th and 31st July 1988 (*Brit. Birds* 82: 19; 84: 7).

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* GIBRALTAR Fourth record: sub-adult on 16th March 1991 (third was in August 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 231).

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* FAROE ISLANDS Second record: first-summer at Tórshavn on 4th July 1991* (first was in January 1981, *Brit. Birds* 82: 337).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* ESTONIA First and second records: remains found at Alajõe, Ida-Virumaa District, in June 1990, and corpse found at Jõiste, Saaremaa Island, on 10th January 1991 (the first to fourth Latvian records were in 1983-86 and first to fifth Lithuanian records in 1982-88, *Brit. Birds* 84: 231).

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* JORDAN First record: Aqaba on 1st October 1990. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* NORWAY Second and third records: adult at Børaunen, Randaberg, Rogaland, on 11th-12th June 1985, and two adults at Revekaien, Klepp, Rogaland, on 30th July 1988 (first was in June 1984, *Brit. Birds* 80: 12).

White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa* JORDAN Second record: two at Aqaba on 3rd and 5th August 1991 (first was in April 1983). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* JORDAN First record: up to 18 at Aqaba on 3rd-4th August 1991.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* NORWAY Third record: Eftang, Larvik, Vestfold, on 7th July 1987 (first and second were in June 1980 and May 1985, *Brit. Birds* 81: 9).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* JORDAN Unprecedented influx: several flocks of 60-250 in Azraq area (first and second records were in 1988 and 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 226).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* GIBRALTAR Second record: 22nd April 1991 (first was in April 1990; cf. range expansions in southern Spain and Morocco).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* FINLAND Third record: ringed, but later died, at Lågskär Bird Observatory during 16th-17th April 1990 (first and second records were in 1935 and 1963). Two individuals which arrived at Rauma in ship from Denmark in autumn 1990 (one found dead on 6th November) are not included in national totals. NETHERLANDS Census: 1,111 breeding pairs, most in eastern provinces, in 1990.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* DENMARK First breeding for more than 100 years: S-Jutland in 1985 (cf. first breeding for 70 years in Belgium in 1982 and colonisation of Luxembourg from reintroduced population in neighbouring parts of Germany also in 1982, *Brit. Birds* 82: 328).

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* BELGIUM First since 1945: immature female at Gullegem-Wevelgem, West-Vlaanderem, on 23rd February 1990*. NETHERLANDS Second record since 1965: Lage Zwaluwe, Noordbrabant, 2nd March 1990. (Cf. influxes to Sweden and Denmark in winter 1989/90, *Brit. Birds* 84: 7-8.)

Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* DENMARK Second-highest total this century: ten individuals

in 1989 (cf. influx to Sweden in October 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 227).

Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum* BYELORUSSIA First and second breeding records: nest with eggs near Turov, Zhitkovichi district, Gomel region, on 15th April 1990, and nest with young about to fly near Lake Lisno, Rossony district, Vitebsk region, on 30th May 1991.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Spreading westwards: increase in Moravskoslezské Beskydy Mountains, northern Moravia, with four to five breeding pairs (first breeding there was in 1983, *Brit. Birds* 81: 19).

Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa* BYELORUSSIA Second proved breeding locality in north: nest with three young about to fly near Velevshina, Lepel district, Vitebsk region, on 25th May 1991; another proved breeding locality in this region: south part of Postavy district, Vitebsk region. ESTONIA First breeding record this century: pair and nest with one young at Joaveski, Lääne-Virumaa District in May 1991*. (Cf. range expansion and high numbers in Finland and Sweden during 1980s, *Brit. Birds* 74: 261; 77: 238, 589; 82: 20.)

Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus* ANDORRA First breeding records: pair nested unsuccessfully in old hole of Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* in 1989 (perhaps eggs destroyed by predator); attempted breeding in same area in 1990; male calling in same area in May 1991, but no evidence of female or breeding; males heard in two other locations in 1990 and 1991.

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius* JORDAN Third and fourth records: two at Azraq on 26th July 1991, and one on 10th August 1991.

Needle-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus* FINLAND Second record: Kristiinankaupunki on 21st April 1990 (first was in 1933).

Plain Swift *Apus unicolor* MOROCCO First record on north Atlantic coast: three at Moulay Bousselham on 2nd December 1990 (sixteenth record).

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* NORWAY Third record: Mølen, Larvik, Vestfold, on 19th June 1988 (first and second were also at Mølen, in October 1984 and May 1986, *Brit. Birds* 82: 20).

Little Swift *Apus affinis* CANARY ISLANDS Vagrant: south of Tenerife in June 1991.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus* UKRAINE Breeding population expansion: 1,000 pairs in West Ukraine during 1970-90 (cf. range expansions in Austria, Byelorussia, Czechoslovakia and Poland, *Brit. Birds* 84: 9).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* SWITZERLAND First breeding record: pair successfully raised young near Martigny/Wallis 1989.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens* SWEDEN Second record: Hoburgen, Gotland, during 10th-11th May 1991* (first was in April 1986, *Brit. Birds* 80: 13). SWITZERLAND First record: Wauwilermoos/Lucerne on 28th-29th April 1989.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* SWITZERLAND Extinct: last individual of former breeding population vanished in August 1990 (cf. declines in west Germany and Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 75: 572; 83: 227).

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* EGYPT Elephantine Island, Aswan, Egypt, on 15th November 1988 (*Sandgrouse* 12: 55-56). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* SWITZERLAND Range expansion: colonisation of Swiss Jura started in 1980 (*Brit. Birds* 73: 576); by 1990 about 40 pairs, at 25 sites (cf. range expansions in Austria, west Germany, Romania and Yugoslavia).

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* ISRAEL First West Palearctic record: ringed in Bet-Shean Valley on 22nd March 1991. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* PORTUGAL Winter/spring record: two at Pancas, Tejo Estuary, on 4th February and 11th March 1989 (cf. Moroccan records in December in 1984 and 1988 and in March in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 20; 82: 328).

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* FINLAND Sixth record: one ringed in Kristiinankaupunki during 4th-7th November 1990 (previous five were in October/November 1974-88, *Brit. Birds* 83: 14).

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* DENMARK

Fourth record: Blåvands Huk, W-Jutland, during 30th September to 10th October 1990* (third was in April-May 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 14). FINLAND Tenth record: ringed at Lågskär Bird Observatory on 30th October 1990. GERMANY Vagrant: details of 1990 occurrence(s) not yet received, but see plate 6. NETHERLANDS Third and fourth records: Dintelhaven, Zuidholland, on 30th September 1988 (*Dutch Birding* 13: 51) and Bloemendaal during 25th-29th October 1990 (first and second were in October 1987 and April 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 21, 329); wintering: two at Noordwijkerhout, Zuidholland, during 12th January to 8th February 1991. SPAIN First record: Casas Veyas, Mallorca, on 10th-11th October 1990*. (Cf. French and Swedish records and at least 42 in Britain and Ireland in September-November 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 233, 480-481.)

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* FRANCE Fourth record: male at Pissevache, Aude, on 11th May 1991* (first to third were in April 1987, April 1989 and September 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 233). NETHERLANDS Second record: male at Breskens, Zeeland, on 29th April 1991 (first was in September 1984, *Brit. Birds* 78: 343). SWEDEN Spring/summer records: singles in Västerbotten and Västmanland in May and in Blekinge in July (there are over 60 previous records, cf. 53 in Britain and Ireland, *Brit. Birds* 84: 482).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* LATVIA First breeding record: Sigulda in summer 1991 (cf. increases and range expansions in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 78: 343).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* UKRAINE Invasion: flocks of hundreds and thousands (largest flock 1,300) in L'vov region from November 1990 (cf. irruptions into Denmark and Britain & Ireland, *Brit. Birds* 84: 139, 233, 327).

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* FINLAND First record: first-winter female, Norrskär, 15th October 1991* (plates 3 & 4, on page 12)(only other recent European records were in Britain in October 1975, Denmark in October 1985 and November 1990, and Sweden in September 1990, *Brit. Birds* 72: 89-94; 84: 233).

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* NORWAY Second record: adult male at Halsnøy, Finnøy, Rogaland, on 17th August 1989 (first was in May 1981, *Brit. Birds* 76: 569).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* ESTONIA First and second records: male at Kingli, Saaremaa Island on 17th and 27th July 1986 and male of race *variegata* near Kääriku, Valgamaa District, on 21st May 1990*. UKRAINE Breeding population expansion: 1,600-2,000 pairs in West during 1980-90.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* DENMARK First record: first-summer male at Skagen (N-Jutland) on 13th June 1991*.

2. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Israel, August 1991 (*H. Shirihai*)



The inclusion of plates 2-4 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* ANDORRA First proved breeding record: pair nested at 1,100 m, three fledged young on 17th June 1991, and six males in other areas, at up to 1,500 m, during April-June 1991.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* FRANCE Fifth record this century: Leucate, Aude, on 31st March 1991*.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* HUNGARY First possible breeding: male, possibly unmated, carrying nesting material near Aggtelek, on 21st June 1991, and still singing on 10th July (cf. extralimital breeding in Finland and Italy, *Brit. Birds* 77: 270; 82: 21).

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* BELGIUM Vagrant: Membach, Liege, on 24th November 1990.

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* NETHERLANDS First breeding record since 1984: two young fledged at Paal, Zeeland, during July-August 1990.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* DENMARK Second record: one ringed at Skagen on 9th June 1991* (first was in September 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 21).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* FAROE ISLANDS First record: male singing in Skuvoy bygd on 8th July 1991*. Deletion: 1982 record (*Brit. Birds* 75: 512) now rejected.

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* BELGIUM First record: trapped at Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, on 9th September 1990*.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* NORWAY Correction: third record (*Brit. Birds* 84: 234) was on 27th August 1989 (not 17th August 1990) and is now accepted. SWEDEN Third or fourth record: one ringed at Utklippan (Blekinge) on 2nd June 1991*.





3 & 4. First-winter female Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*, Finland, October 1991 (*Jouni Riihimäki*)

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Top binoculars for the future

Most popular binoculars

Most popular make of binoculars

Recommended by British Birds

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE Link Cameras & Video, Reading. Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow, Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton, Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE In Focus, Barnet
KENT Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells, Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street, City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly, City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd, City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn, Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk, Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road, Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd, Tecno City, Moorgate, Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road, Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon, Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hennington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W MIDLANDS Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull, Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford, Janet Green Photographic, Halifax, Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds, Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds, Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York, J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate, Walkers Studios, Scarborough, Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY Gruts Ltd
JERSEY Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN J Lizars Ltd, Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS SHIRE Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH Perthshire Field Sports
Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the country

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1LU

Zeiss experience and quality has ieved a world wide reputation excellence.
heir latest Binocular Survey, the of the universally respected,

British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ZEISS
Germany Carl Zei
(DS

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

(D864)

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* SWITZERLAND First record and first breeding record: pair bred successfully near Leuk/Wallis in 1989.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* PORTUGAL Winter: regular recently, e.g. near Silves, Algarve, on 13th January 1991*.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* BELGIUM Fourth record: Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, on 18th October 1991*. FRANCE Second record: Ouessant during 28th October to 2nd November 1990*. Deletion: record during 2nd-8th October 1987 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 338) now rejected.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* NORWAY Third record: juvenile showing characteristics of nominate race caught at Utsira, Rogaland, on 30th September to 1st October 1987 (record, also of *P. b. bonelli*, on 12th May 1988, *Brit. Birds* 84: 10, now becomes fourth).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* GIBRALTAR Fourth record: 10th February 1991 (third was in 1973). MOROCCO Second record: Merja Zerga on 16th November 1990 (first was at Tangier on 5th November 1975, *Alauda* 44: 95).

Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* SWEDEN Vagrant/escape: adult male ringed at Falsterbo Bird Observatory, Scania, on 2nd June 1991*. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* MALTA Eighth and ninth records: May 1989 and on Gozo in March 1991 (seventh was in April 1985, *Brit. Birds* 79: 290).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* FINLAND Strong influx: at least 89 reported from scattered places on coast in South during October to November 1990; breeding in several localities in summer 1991 (first and second records were in 1949 and 1984; first breeding record was in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 82: 353; cf. influx into Norway in autumn 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 234).

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* NETHERLANDS Return of winterer: first-record individual overwintering during 1989/1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 10; 85: plate 5) returned to same place in Amsterdam during 17th November 1990 to 5th April 1991.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* NORWAY Second record: Grudavatnet, Klepp, Rogaland, on 9th May 1989 (first concerned adult male nest-building in Ostfold during May-July 1989, *Brit. Birds* 84: 234).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* NORWAY Third and fourth records: Mølen, Larvik, Vestfold, on 5th June 1984 and 25th May 1988 (first two were at Utsira, Rogaland, on 30th September and 1st October 1974 and at Hareid, Møre & Romsdal, on 13th October 1974). SWEDEN Fifth record: Ottenby, Öland, on 20th-21st October 1990 (with acceptance of one at Nidingen, Halland, in October 1984, those in October 1988, previously

5. Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*, Netherlands, November 1989 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*)



published as the second and third, *Brit. Birds* 82: 353, became the third and fourth).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* UKRAINE Invasion: flocks of hundreds in Volyn Region from April 1990 (no other invasion has been reported in Europe since that involving Britain, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland in autumn 1983, *Brit. Birds* 77: 591; 78: 611-637).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* SWITZERLAND Decreasing: fewer than 1,000 pairs in 1989 (1,500 pairs in 1972-78).

Indian House Crow *Corvus splendens* GIBRALTAR First record: 6th March to 5th April 1991, coinciding with the return of warships from the Persian Gulf. (This species was formerly established at Eilat, Israel, probably by ship-borne immigrants, but has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor* FRANCE Apparently spreading rapidly: breeding reports from four or five localities in Aude and Pyrénées-Orientales in 1991 (cf. first breeding records for mainland France in spring 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 10).

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* LITHUANIA Second record: Kuršiu Nerija on 16th July 1983 (first was at Ventes Ragas on 20th May 1981).

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* FRANCE Sixth record: up to two males at Bonifacio, Corse-du-Sud, Corsica, during 2nd-5th May 1991* (cf. 1990 records, *Brit. Birds* 84: 235).

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* GIBRALTAR Second record: 6th May 1991 (perhaps escape, but coincided with fall of migrants; first was in September 1989). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Citril Finch *Serinus citrinella* SPAIN (CEUTA) First and second records for North Africa: mist-netted on 31st March 1991 and 20th April 1991.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* SPAIN (CEUTA) First record for North Africa: female captured on 24th April 1987.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* BELGIUM Influx: several records in autumn/winter/spring 1990/91. HUNGARY First and second records: Sátoraljaújhely on 12th September 1990 and near Biatorbágy on 16th December 1990 (both found dead). NETHERLANDS Influx: more than ten during August 1990 to February 1991 (only seven records this century; previous influx was more than a century ago, in 1889). (Cf. influxes or vagrant records in Britain, Byelorussia, Denmark and France in 1990/91, following prediction of eruption from Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 84: 235, 317, 499-500.)

6. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, Helgoland, Germany, October 1990 (*David Taylor*)



Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* BELGIUM Influx: high numbers in autumn/winter/spring 1990/91. NETHERLANDS Influx: higher numbers than in 1983 influx from June 1990 onwards, with peaks from end of July to beginning of August and from end of September to beginning of October. (Cf. eruption from Sweden and irruptions into Britain, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Hungary and Malta in summer/autumn 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 140, 235.)

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* BELGIUM Influx: high numbers in autumn/winter/spring 1990/91. FRANCE Fifth record this century: male at Le Bonhomme, Haut-Rhin, on 27th February 1991* (fourth was in January 1991). NETHERLANDS Largest-ever influx: 'hundreds' both inland and near coast during September 1990 to February 1991 (previous influx of 230 was in 1982-83). (Cf. irruptions into Britain and Denmark, *Brit. Birds* 84: 235, 317-318, 500).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Rapid increase: 300-450 breeding pairs in 1985-89. FRANCE Possible prelude to breeding: singing males at La Cluse-et-Mijoux, Doubs, on 1st June 1991*, two at Dunkerque, Nord, during 13th-30th June 1991*, and one in delta de la Dranse, Haute-Savoie, on 11th June 1991* (only previous spring record was singing male in June 1977). HUNGARY Fifth record: adult female ringed near Fertórákos on 24th July 1990 (no proof of breeding since first proven record in 1983, although recently fledged young was caught near Budapest in 1985). SWITZERLAND Second breeding record: first successful breeding in Toggenburg in 1989 (first, in 1983, failed). (Cf. range expansions or increases reported recently in west Germany, Netherlands and the Ukraine, *Brit. Birds* 79: 291-292; 81: 338; 82: 23; 84: 11.)

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* NORWAY Second record: adult male at Jomfruland, Kragerø, Telemark, on 18th May 1989. Correction: first record, on 4th December 1987, now accepted as referring to two individuals of unknown sex and age, not two adult females (*Brit. Birds* 83: 16).

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* SWITZERLAND First record: male near Ependes/Vaud on 5th November 1989 (cf. spate of European records during 1986-89, *Brit. Birds* 83: 16).

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia* FINLAND Second record: adult male in Kotka on 30th September 1990 (first was in May 1981, *Brit. Birds* 75: 30).

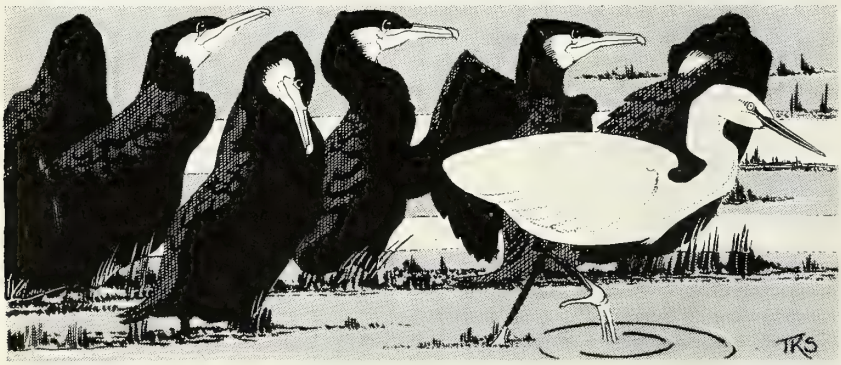
Correspondents

ANDORRA Jacqueline Crozier, Cortal de la Solana, Anyos, La Massana
BELGIUM Bart De Schutter, Oudestraat 18, 2610 Wilrijk
BYELORUSSIA M. E. Nikiforov, Lab. Ecol. Terrestrial Animals, Inst. Zoology, Byel. Acad. Sci., Skoriny St 27, 220733 Minsk
CANARY ISLANDS Juan Antonio Lorenzo Gutiérrez, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidad de la Laguna, 38206 La Laguna
CYPRUS C. J. L. Bennett, PO Box 4319, Nicosia
CZECHOSLOVAKIA Dr Karel Šťastný, Institute of Applied Ecology and Ecotechnology, Agriculture University in Prague, 281 63 Kostelec n.č.lesy
DENMARK Brian Rasmussen, Kastanie Alle 27, DK-3250 Gilleleje
ESTONIA Dr Vilju Lilleleht, Institute of Zoology and Botany, 21 Vanemuise St, SU-202400 Tartu
FAROE ISLANDS Søren Sørensen, Bratskovvej 5, DK-2720 Vanløse, Denmark
FINLAND Hannu Jännes, The Finnish Ornithological Society, Zoological Museum, P. Rautatiekatu 13, SF-00100 Helsinki 10
FRANCE Dr Philippe J. Dubois, 2 rue Mozart, 92000 Nanterre
GIBRALTAR C. E. Perez, 7 Kensington House, Laguna Estate
GREECE George I. Handrinos, 50 El Venizelou Str, 166 75 Glyfada
HUNGARY Zoltán Waliczky, 1039 Budapest, Juhász Gy.u.15.VII.60
ISRAEL Hadoram Shirihai, Israel Trust for Ornithology, PO Box 4168, Eilat 88102
JORDAN Ian J. Andrews, c/o British Embassy, PO Box 87, Amman
LATVIA Dr Jānis Baumanis, Laboratory of Ornithology, Miera 3, 229021 Salaspils
LITHUANIA Dr Petras Kurlavicius, Institute of Ecology, Academijos 2, Vilnius, SU-232600
MALTA Joe Sultana & Charles Gauci, The Ornithological Society, PO Box 498, Valletta

MOROCCO Michel Thévenot, Laboratoire de Biogéographie et Écologie, Case 94, Université de Montpellier 2, F-34095 Montpellier Cedex 5, France
NETHERLANDS Drs Arnoud B. van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
NORWAY Andrew W. Clarke, Grønlia, Kyrresvingen 21, 3190 Horten
POLAND Dr Tadeusz Stawarczyk, Wrocław University, Museum of Natural History, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław
PORTUGAL Dr João Carlos Farinha, Serviço Nacional de Parques, Reservas e Conservação da Natureza, Rua Filipe Folque 46, 3°, 1000 Lisboa
SPAIN Dr Eduardo de Juana A., Sociedad Española de Ornitología, Facultad de Biología, Pl. 9, 28040 Madrid
SWEDEN Johan Elmberg, Biologigränd 47, S-902 41 Umeå
SWITZERLAND Hans Schmid, Swiss Ornithological Institute, CH-6204 Sempach
UKRAINE Igor Gorbań, Grushewski St 4, L'vov 290005-SU

No information was received from Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania or Yugoslavia.

Influx of Little Egrets in Britain and Ireland in 1989



Pete Combridge and Chris Parr

The Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* is widely distributed, breeding in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. In the Western Palearctic, juvenile dispersal from the breeding colonies begins in July and continues into September, and adults migrate from late August. The majority withdraw to Africa for the winter (Cramp & Simmons 1977; Hancock & Kushlan 1984), but significant numbers winter in parts of southern Europe. In the Camargue, for example, counts have exceeded 1,000 in some winters, and hundreds perished there during the cold weather in January 1985 (H. Hafner *in litt.*).

The status of the Little Egret in Britain and Ireland has changed from that of a very rare vagrant (in 1939, Witherby *et al.* could give only two records this century) to an annual and increasing visitor (Dymond *et al.* 1989).

The events of 1989

In the first half of the year, wintering individuals were present in Dorset, Lincolnshire and Co. Kerry, followed by a scattering of spring 'overshoots' north to Shetland. More appeared in the second half of the year and, as numbers increased, it became apparent that an unprecedented influx was underway (Rogers *et al.* 1990).

Fig. 1 shows total numbers present by five-day periods from July to December for Britain and Ireland. Arrivals began in mid July and increased steadily to a late-August peak. A decline followed during September, with a sharp drop occurring towards the end of that month. Much lower numbers were recorded throughout October and November, and in December there was a second, smaller influx which was most noticeable in the south and west.



Fig. 1. Totals of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* in Britain and Ireland by five-day periods, July-December 1989 (includes all records accepted by the BBRC up to the end of May 1991)

Fig. 2 shows maximum numbers in each county. The vast majority of Little Egrets were recorded in the southern half of Britain and Ireland, with the largest numbers along the south coast of England from Cornwall to West Sussex, and with a bias towards the southwest. In this respect, the 1989 influx matched the already established pattern of autumn occurrences (Sharrock & Sharrock 1976; Dymond *et al.* 1989).

Fig. 3 shows monthly bird-day totals for five arbitrary regions of England and Wales. While the larger late-summer influx can be seen to have affected all regions, the smaller December one was largely confined to the southwest (regions a, b and d). New arrivals in the latter influx were most evident in the Isles of Scilly, Cornwall and Dyfed (Rogers *et al.* 1990).

Rogers *et al.* (1990) reported little evidence of a west-to-east or south-to-north movement, since strong site fidelity was shown by Little Egrets in southern England, and the more northerly records were mostly in periods of steady totals in the south.

In Ireland, six Little Egrets were recorded in the July-September period, with four of these in August. In the previous ten years, only three had occurred in autumn, except for two July records of individuals thought to have been long-staying spring arrivals (P. Smiddy *in litt.*).



Fig. 2. Maximum numbers of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* in Britain and Ireland by counties, July-December 1989

Discussion

France and Spain hold large breeding populations of Little Egrets. Although there have been no significant changes in breeding numbers in either the French Camargue or the Andalusian region of Spain (H. Hafner and E. de Juana *in litt.*), there has been a detectable increase and apparent spread in other parts of Spain. This increase has been most marked in Valencia, where the breeding population doubled from about 700 pairs in 1986 to about 1,400 in 1989, and in Catalunia, where the number of pairs rose from 650 to a possible 1,000 in 1989 (Fernández Alcazar & Fernández Cruz 1991; E. de Juana *in litt.*). On the north coast of Spain, where the species was formerly very rare, numbers of non-breeders have increased greatly in recent years (E. de Juana *in litt.*).

Away from the traditional areas in southern Europe, the Little Egret has extended its breeding range northwards. Pairs bred for the first time in northern France in 1978 and in the Netherlands in 1979 (*Brit. Birds* 72: 590; SOVON 1987). In 1982, one paired with a Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium (Lippens & Burggraeve 1983; VLAVICO 1989).

A post-breeding dispersal, mainly of juveniles, has become regular on the north coast of Brittany since about 1980, and preceded an increase in numbers and breeding range in northwestern France. Although the species is now present virtually all year on Brittany's north coast, this autumn movement is still evident as a three-figure peak in August and

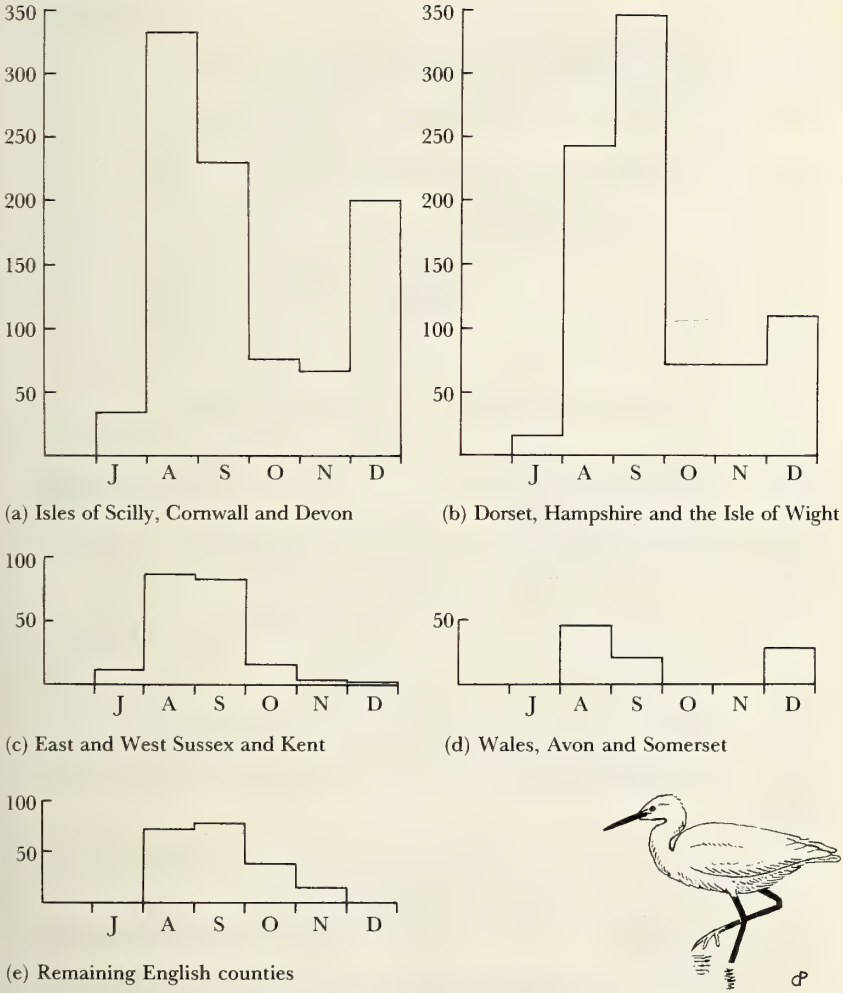


Fig. 3. Monthly bird-day totals of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* for five arbitrary regions of England and Wales, July-December 1989

September; although its origins remain unknown, it may include some individuals from Spain. Northward dispersal also occurs in winter, but is much less marked than the post-breeding movement.

Little Egrets now breed in southern Brittany. By 1983, they were nesting in Loire-Atlantique and breeding was suspected in Morbihan, where it was proved in 1984. Some 200 pairs now breed in Morbihan, and breeding is suspected in Finistère. Individuals were observed displaying in Ille-et-Vilaine and Maine-et-Loire in the spring of 1990 (see fig. 4 for location of départements).

Hundreds of Little Egrets winter in western France, mainly as far north



Fig. 4. Départements of France mentioned in the text

as southern Brittany. Possibly over 200 now winter on the north coast of Brittany, and January counts from Côtes-d'Armor illustrate the recent increase in wintering numbers: 1986, two; 1987, five; 1988, 20; 1989, 36; 1990, 93 (Garoche 1990). Small numbers have overwintered inland in Loire-Atlantique and Maine-et-Loire. (Summarised from information supplied by G. Gélinaud and P. Yésou *in litt.*)

Given the regional bias of the 1989 late-year British records, northwestern France, with its recent increase in numbers, seems to be the likely origin of the influx. This is further confirmed by the fact that post-breeding dispersal was more marked than usual there in 1989 (P. Yésou *in litt.*); also, there were only three records for Flemish Belgium and the Netherlands at this time (Dr P. van Sanden *in litt.*; van den Burg *et al.* 1989).

Judging from recent events in Brittany, an increase in post-breeding records and overwintering could lead to the species extending its breeding range, if only temporarily, into Britain and Ireland.

Acknowledgments

We are especially indebted to Michael J. Rogers for encouragement, ideas, access to the BBRC files and helpful comment on the first draft of this paper. James Hancock and Mike Combridge also read and commented on the first draft. Invaluable information was supplied by G. Fernández Alcazar, G. Gélinaud of the ornithological group 'Ar Vran', Dr H. Hafner, Dr E. de Juana, Dr P. van Sanden, P. Smiddy and the Irish Rare Birds Committee, and P. Yésou. David & Joan Little, Rob Bijlsma, Sue Combridge and Alan Snook all helped in various ways.

Summary

An unprecedented influx of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* occurred in Britain and Ireland in the latter half of 1989. Two distinct waves were apparent: the first, affecting a wider area, was larger than the second, which was confined mainly to the south and west. The majority occurred on the south coast of England. There is evidence of an increase in breeding numbers and range in parts of Spain, and in Brittany, northwest France, there has been a recent year-around population increase; thus, it seems likely that northwest France was the origin of the 1989 influx into Britain and Ireland. If post-breeding dispersal and overwintering become regular in the British Isles, it is conceivable that breeding will occur here in the near future.

References

CRAMP, S., & SIMMONS, K. E. L. (eds.) 1977. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic.* vol. 1. Oxford.
DYMOND, J. N., FRASER, P. A., & GANTLETT, S. J. M. 1989. *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Calton.
FERNÁNDEZ ALCAZAR, G., & FERNÁNDEZ CRUZ, M. 1991. Situación actual de las garzas coloniales en España. *Quercus* 60: 9-16.
GAROCHE, J. 1990. Résultant des dénombrements d'oiseaux d'eau réalisés dans les Côtes-du-Nord à la mi-janvier 1990. *Bull. Gr. Orn. Côtes-d'Armor* 21: 11-22.
HANCOCK, J., & KUSHLAN, J. 1984. *The Herons Handbook.* Beckenham.
LIPPENS, L., & BURGGRAEVE, G. 1983. Hybridisation de l'Aigrette garzette et du Héron cendré en Belgique. *Le Gerfaut* 73: 303-311.
ROGERS, M. J., & THE RARITIES COMMITTEE. 1990. Report on rare birds in Britain in 1989. *Brit. Birds* 83: 439-496.
SHARROCK, J. T. R., & SHARROCK, E. M. 1976. *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Berkhamsted.
SOVON. 1987. *Atlas van de Nederlandse Vogels.* Arnhem.
VAN DEN BURG, E., VAN DONGEN, R. M., DRIESSENS, G., & DE ROUW, P. W. W. 1989. Recente meldingen: juli, augustus en september 1989. *Dutch Birding* 11: 190.
VLAVICO. 1989. *Vogels in Vlaanderen.* Bornem.
WITHERBY, H. F., JOURDAIN, F. C. R., TICEHURST, N. F., & TUCKER, B. W. 1939. *The Handbook of British Birds.* vol. 3. London.

P. Combridge, 44 Ethelred Gardens, Totton, Southampton SO4 3UA
C. Parr, 133 Radstock Road, Woolston, Southampton SO2 7HW

Identification pitfalls and assessment problems*

This series, which started in January 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28), is not intended to cover all facets of the identification of the species concerned, but only the major sources of error likely to mislead the observer in the field or the person attempting to assess the written evidence. The species covered are mostly those which were formerly judged by the Rarities Committee*, but which are now the responsibility of county and regional recorders and records committees; other species, both rarer and commoner than those, are also featured sometimes.

11. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

The Little Egret should be one of Europe's easiest birds to see and identify. There was little argument within the British Birds Rarities

*This paper, like those earlier in the series (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28, 78-80, 129-130, 203-206, 304-305, 342-346; 77: 412-415; 78: 97-102; 81: 126-134; 84: 145-148), is a publication of the Rarities Committee, which is sponsored by *ZEISS Germany*.

Committee when it was proposed to drop the species from its list from January 1991. Nevertheless, although a little intelligence and common-sense may be necessary to identify some rare birds, it is by no means essential to be stupid to misidentify them—even such 'easy' ones as Little Egrets.

As any ornithological tour leader will confirm, many highly intelligent, well-trained people—doctors, lawyers, university lecturers—lose all objectivity when faced with even simple bird identifications and make the most dreadful mistakes. After two weeks on the River Nile, pointing out hundreds of egrets to fellow travellers, I was asked, 'Is that one of the birds you call an Osprey?' That was by a non-birdwatcher, and may be a testament to my abilities as a leader, but it shows what I mean. It is not so much an *identification* pitfall for the local records committees which now have the job of judging reports, as an *assessment* one.

One member of the BBRC recently wrote, 'I'm almost prepared to accept a white paper bag as a Little Egret', to which it was later added 'So long as it has yellow feet' and then, verbally, 'And if it doesn't have Tesco printed on the side.' Little Egret descriptions tend to be short and sweet, but not always easy to judge. As well-meaning, honest observers of little experience (or even great experience, but little skill) can report a Little Egret after getting a brief glimpse of a gull in bright sunshine, the Committee has always rightly insisted on more detail—at least of bill, leg and foot colour—than the oft-quoted 'Large white bird wading at the water's edge.' The known expert's attitude—'I know Little Egret well and can't be bothered to write a description'—is also a dilemma for any committee.

If local expert observers see Little Egrets, it is to be hoped that they appreciate the reasons why decent descriptions should still be requested. Visitors to a county who are not known locally, should, whether they are expert or not, also realise that a county recorder is simply doing a good job by asking for fuller details of an apparently obvious bird. There are also times when even a Little Egret is not so blindingly obvious: I was once on the beach at Eilat, Israel, when seven flew over, and I confess I thought they were Great White Egrets *E. alba* for several minutes. I felt much better when I realised that some very eminent people beside me were keeping quiet and pretending not to have seen them. With birds out of context, or high in the sky (as these were), size is not always easy to judge, and there are, of course, rarer confusion species to consider in Britain and Ireland: Great White Egret, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* and conceivably Snowy Egret *E. thula*, Little Blue Heron *E. caerulea*, Yellow-billed Egret *E. intermedia* and Western Reef Heron *E. gularis*, the latter sometimes considered a race of *garzetta*. This paper is essentially restricted to the British and Irish situation and does not attempt full treatment of all 'white egrets'.

A first step in egret identification is to try to get a good size judgment. White birds in sunshine (and equally in grey mist) can look deceptively big. Great White Egret (85-102 cm) is really the size of Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (90-98 cm), whereas Little is noticeably smaller (55-65 cm). If a

heron is not conveniently alongside, at least try to get a gull (and identify the gull!) or other water-bird for comparison. A body size or wingspan roughly that of Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* means Little.

Of these egrets, Little and Snowy are often the most energetic, active and agile, feeding on mud, rocks, in shallow water or up to their bellies, and, often with waving wings, on floating weed. In saltmarsh and tidal creeks, Little Egrets in Britain frequently dash about erratically, lunging forward and stabbing with outstretched head and neck, wings raised, in a way that makes most Cattle Egrets and Western Reef Herons look positively sluggish. Little has a long, slender neck, remarkably thin from front or rear; Great White has a longer neck, with a marked, angular kink, and a much longer and thicker bill, the line of the gape extending farther back beyond the eye. Cattle Egrets are shorter in leg, neck and bill, with a heavier, rounder head and protruding 'jowls', and, although they can look long-necked, they are quite dumpy by comparison with Little. Western Reef Herons are like Little Egrets with slightly thicker, longer, faintly downcurved bills, perhaps most obviously in Red Sea populations.

In flight, Little looks like a 'small heron', with head and neck drawn back, often a rather angular neck bulge, legs trailing, and wings bowed, with slightly angular leading edge. Great Whites look bigger, heavier, slower and longer-winged, more like Grey Heron, with the withdrawn neck even more angular and deeper-pouched, bill more pronounced, and legs longer with feet much bigger than a Little Egret's. Cattle Egrets fly more quickly, with shorter, rounder wings and a softer, less angular profile, smoother neck pouch and shorter feet.

Little Egrets are sparklingly white birds, eye-catching at very long range (but able to hide perfectly well in any decent marsh). So, too, are Great Whites; winter Cattle Egrets are white, but for much of the summer there is at least a little buff and, in breeding plumage, Cattle Egrets are beautifully marked with deep, bright golden-buff on the head, breast and back, never remotely confusable with Little. Typical pale Western Reef Herons are white or with more or less dull grey flecking, especially on the wings. Among nominate *gularis* (the West African coastal population), dark individuals greatly predominate and a white one is probably highly unlikely in Britain and Ireland, but it is possible that the proportion of white birds is underestimated simply through the identification problem, particularly in the breeding season when they are black-billed. Very rarely, a Little Egret can look dark grey (I have seen an all-pale-grey individual in Greece). The Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* is, of course, very different, but looks strikingly white-winged in flight.

Snowy Egrets are probably most likely to be detected (or proved) in breeding plumage, with the two, thin, trailing plumes on the nape of the Little Egret replaced by a thick, shaggy crest, and the long back plumes showing a greater tendency than those of Little to curve upwards at their tips. Although Littles can look 'rough' on the nape, Snowies, even in winter, tend to have a more ragged, thickly feathered effect on the nape.

Immature Little Blue Herons are white, sometimes sullied with brownish, and have dark primary tips; they become pied by their first

spring. The bill is pale grey, with a sharply-defined black tip, the legs dull grey-green or yellow-green. This Nearctic species is the size of Little Egret, but rather more stocky.

Yellow-billed Egret is between Little and Great White in size, and easy to overlook. The bill is relatively short compared with Great White, and yellow (often with a dark tip) except briefly in the breeding season, when it is, confusingly, black (but loral and leg colours are then distinctive). Legs and feet are usually all-black, never with yellow feet. The short gape line (compared with Great White), relatively thick neck and slightly 'jowled' appearance give this egret a mixture of Little, Great White and even Cattle Egret features, thoroughly justifying its alternative English name of Intermediate Egret. It is widespread in Africa and southern Asia, and could conceivably reach Britain, but the chances must be slim.

Egret bare-part colours are complicated; refer to *The Herons Handbook* by Hancock & Kushlan (1984), with its beautiful illustrations by Robert Gillmor, for a full discussion. Basically, Little Egrets have grey-black bills and dull (not brightly coloured) lores that are greenish-grey or bluish-grey, more rarely quite yellow, and black legs with yellow feet. The yellow of the feet is greener or duller outside the breeding season, the legs of juveniles are much greener overall, and the feet are not infrequently soiled by mud. Even clean feet may not catch the eye in flight, although the typical appearance is a good, bright, obvious yellow blob on the end of the trailing legs.

Great White Egrets have blackish bills in spring, but for most of the year the bill is strikingly yellow and quite unlike that of any Little. The blackish legs always lack yellow feet (but sometimes show yellow or even red at the top of the leg). Cattle Egrets have yellow bills that become strongly red in the breeding season, but are blackish only when newly fledged. Their legs are all-yellow, or duller greenish-ochre with yellower joints, or red in full breeding condition, never black with yellow feet. Snowy Egrets have strikingly yellow lores (the best first clue, although some recent Littles in Britain have shown dull yellow lores) and black legs with vivid yellow (even orange-red) feet. The yellow often extends higher up the back of the leg than on Little, but on some Littles the yellow is practically as extensive, so this is at best a supporting character. Pale Western Reef Herons have dull, brownish-ochre or yellowish bills (although *schistacea* may be black-billed when breeding) and brownish legs, with less-contrasted pale toes.

Rarely, a distant 'white blob' may have to be left unidentified as an 'egret sp.'—after all, you can see an egret a couple of kilometres away, but cannot then judge size, bill or foot colour—and the most tricky Little Egret, when seen well, is the dull, green-legged juvenile with its paler bill and wispy, ragged-looking head and neck plumage. Otherwise, this is a species that should really cause little trouble, but, local committees be warned, there will always be people quite honestly deceived into believing they have seen one when it was merely a gull—or a paper bag.

R. A. Hume
15 Cedar Gardens, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1EY

Mystery photographs

174 When confronted by a relatively plain species, there is an understandable tendency to try to bypass a disciplined analysis of the subtler aspects of structure and plumage, and to base identification on one or two more-immediate and supposedly 'key' features. This approach, however, underestimates not only the variability of individual species, but also their capacity to simulate characters traditionally associated with other species.



Last month's mystery warbler (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 299, repeated here in black-and-white) received the accolade of appearing in colour, yet its generally drab appearance contrived to encompass an initially confusing combination of features.

The delicate yet compact proportions, a moderately well-defined face-pattern, and olive-yellow fringes to the remiges point to the genus *Phylloscopus*; although head-on, the very small cross-section of the bill suggests that it is of fine dimensions. Looking for significant features, it is apparent that the greater coverts have buffish-white tips, combining to form a pale wing-bar. For many years, a single wing-bar was regarded as a feature only of Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides* and Arctic Warbler *P. borealis* among West Palearctic *Phylloscopus*. As the mystery warbler also possesses dark legs and fine proportions, it would be very easy to conclude that it was a Greenish Warbler, and, in fact, during the late 1950s and 1960s, warblers with the appearance of the mystery bird were frequently identified as Greenish.

A more detailed consideration shows, however, that this cannot be the case. The mystery *Phylloscopus* is in fresh plumage: note among other things the neat, unabraded fringes and tips to the primaries. In fresh plumage, the vast majority of Greenish Warblers have a dominant olive

component to the upperparts (though there is frequently a greyish sheen). The wing-bar of Greenish is yellowish-white and is confined to the outer four to six greater coverts, and, when unworn, forms a short but relatively deep and clearly demarcated bar or wedge, often broadening towards the outer edge of the folded wing. On the mystery warbler, the wing-bar is long and narrow (encompassing all the greater coverts) and is also diffuse and buffish-white in colour, and not clearly set off against the darker feather bases. The bill of Greenish is frequently (though not consistently) quite short, but is invariably broad at the base. Even in a head-on view, its sturdy cross-section would be evident. (Greenish also has the lower mandible predominantly pale, though the pattern of the mystery warbler's apparently dark bill cannot be certainly assessed.) Other incompatible features include the buffish wash on the underparts (Greenish is much whiter, with limited yellow-and-grey streaking); the relatively narrow and buff-washed supercilium (longer, broader, more flared, and yellowish-white on Greenish); rather uniform ear-coverts (paler-centred with darker rim on Greenish); and the strongly contrasting, almost black, large alula feather (olive-suffused and less contrasting on Greenish).

Rejecting the wing-bar as a substantial character, what other plumage features seem significant? Olive and yellow components in the plumage are very much associated with the genus *Phylloscopus*, yet on the mystery warbler these hues are entirely lacking, apart from olive-yellow fringes to the secondaries and the outer tail feathers. These coloüfful fringes contrast with the decidedly grey-brown upperparts and pale underparts. This combination is much associated with Bonelli's Warbler *P. bonelli*, but that species generally appears rather more robust and longer-winged, has paler bare parts, frequently displays an enhanced contrast between olive fringes to the secondaries and much paler (even whitish) fringes to the tertials, and, importantly, has a very subdued supercilium and eye-stripe (particularly across the lores); in combination with a relatively large, dominant eye, this produces a rather non-Phylloscopine and characteristically bland expression.

The mystery warbler has altogether different facial characteristics, comprising an evident buff-white supercilium of uniform width, a dark eye-stripe (obviously but not strikingly darker than the crown and ear-coverts), and a pale eye-ring, especially noticeable below the eye. Both supercilium and eye-stripe span the lores. These features produce a precise, alert expression.

Only one species combines this head-pattern with olive-fringed remiges and rectrices, a short wing-point (one half the length of the visible tertials), a fine bill, and dark (indeed, blackish) legs, and that is Chiffchaff *P. collybita*. This individual was photographed by Anthony McGeehan on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, in October 1990. Yet its generally pale and greyish appearance, and the rudimentary wing-bar, do not immediately accord with the familiar image of Chiffchaff in Britain and Ireland.

The breeding range of Chiffchaff extends from Britain and Ireland, east across Europe to Siberia, and south to northwest Africa and the Canary Islands. As with many species with very extensive distributions, its

MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS P/P & INS. FREE

FOCALPOINT

The binocular and telescope specialists.
Deal with birders who will help you choose.

SUPERB VIEWS!

BINOCULARS

BAUSCH & LOMB
LEICA
ZEISS
ADLERBLICK
HABICHT
OPTICRON
CENTON
BUSHNELL
NIKON
SWALLOW
MIRADOR
BRESSER



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

OPTICAL FIELD DAY
with the W. & W.T. at SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS.
Sunday 12th January 1992
10.30am – 4pm

BIRDGUIDES – 1992
Tours to Kenya (Feb)
Israel (March)
Majorca (May)
Details from Peter Wolstenholme on 061-428 2175

SCOPE SPECIAL
KOWA TS2 complete with eyepiece, case, tripod & strap £199

FINE ART DEPARTMENT
Originals by leading Bird Artists DAVID QUINN, CHRIS SHIELDS, PHILIP SNOW & GORDON TRUNKFIELD

TOP QUALITY LIMITED EDITION PRINTS OF BIRDS & MAMMALS
by Lars Jonsson, Keith Shackleton, Bruce Pearson, Chris Rose, Robert Bateman, Philip Snow and many others.

BOOK SHELF
All the latest new titles from Poyser etc. Rare Birds, Warblers of W. Palearctic, Herons of Europe, Owls of the World etc.

TELESCOPES

NIKON
KOWA
QUESTAR
OPTOLYTH
BUSHNELL
SWIFT
OPTICRON
CENTURY
BAUSCH & LOMB
+
Full range of accessories to suit all models.

SKUA CASES
KOWA
OPTOLYTH
NIKON
PICCOLO

FOCALPOINT (D960)
UNIT 8, MARBURY HOUSE FARM, BENTLEYS FARM LANE, HIGHER WHITLEY, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE WA4 4QW
Telephone 0925-730399

OPEN MON-FRI 9.30-5.30
SAT 9.30-4.00
CLOSED SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

Cygnus Wildlife
Holidays for Birdwatchers 1992

Escorted bird tours by experienced leaders, catering for all levels of expertise.

Please request a brochure if you are planning a holiday to one of the following destinations:

India, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Texas, Majorca, Austria, Camargue, Hungary, Poland, USSR, Pyrenees, Arizona & California, Gambia, Argentina, Ecuador & Galapagos, Ethiopia, Kenya, Canada, Australia and Nepal

ABTA 62948

CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS,
57 FORE STREET,
KINGSBRIDGE,
DEVON TQ7 1PG
Telephone 0548 856178
FAX: 0548 857537

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

(D954)

island holidays

NORTH SPITSBERGEN

Only 600 miles from the North Pole, Spitsbergen is host to thousands of seabirds as well as Polar Bear, Arctic Fox and Walrus and rare Arctic flowers.

Join ornithologist Roy Dennis for a ten-day ship-board exploration with daily shore excursions. Depart 10 July 1992 from London or Aberdeen. Fully inclusive cost £2,335.

Full details from:
Island Holidays, Ardross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2JU. Tel: 0764 70107.

(D953)

Fax: 0723 363334 | American Express/Access/Visa. Post & Packing please add £2.50 | Prices correct 1.12.91 — Subject to availability — Open 6 days 9am-5.30pm | Fax: 0723 363334

10% DISCOUNT WHILE STOCKS LAST 92

CARL ZEISS BINOCULARS

8 × 20 B and Pouch	£295
10 × 25 B and Pouch	£319
8 × 30 BGA	£509
8 × 56 BG AT	£669
7 × 42 BG AT	£589
10 × 40 BGA CF	£599
15 × 60 BGA	£1190
8 × 20 BT-P NEW	£295
10 × 25 BT-P NEW	£319

ZEISS JENA BINOCULARS

10 × 50 Jenoptem	£79
10 × 50 Dekarem	£95
8 × 32 Notarem	Phone
10 × 40 Notarem	Phone

SWIFT Supplied with case & straps

Grand Prix 8 × 40	£89
County 10 × 40	£94
Triton 10 × 50	£99
Red Spot 8 × 40	£114
Red Spot 10 × 50	£124
Saratoga 8 × 42	£149
Newport 10 × 42	£159
Audubon 8.5 × 44	£199
Trilyte 7 × 42	£129
Trilyte 8 × 42	£134
Trilyte 10 × 42	£139
Viewmaster Body 45% Angle	£149
Eyepiece 20×	£29
Zoom 15×-45×	£49

ROSS – LONDON

Cavendish 8 × 42	£139
Hanover 10 × 42	£149
Regent 8 × 42	£169
Kensington 10 × 42	£179

BAUSCH & LOMB

Elite 8 × 42	£629
Elite 10 × 42	£629

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster Body	PHONE
Spacemaster II Body	
Spacemaster Armoured	
Spacemaster Waterproof & 15×-45×	
15×-45× Zoom	
22× Wide Angle	
25×, 40×, 60× Lenses	

(D957)

ADLERBLICK—Multi-coated

8 × 42	£169
10 × 42	£179
10 × 50	£189
8 × 42 Armour	£184
10 × 42 Armour	£194
10 × 50 Armour	£209

RUSSIAN BINOCULARS

7 × 35	£27
7 × 50	£30
8 × 30	£26
8 × 40	£30
10 × 50	£30
12 × 40	£33
20 × 60	£71

LEITZ

Trinovid 8 × 20 BC	£199
Trinovid 10 × 25 BC	£226
Trinovid 7 × 42 BA	£628
Trinovid 8 × 42 BA	£628
Trinovid 10 × 42 BA	£628

PENTAX Highly recommended

Ultra Compact 8 × 24	£69
Ultra Compact 10 × 24	£79
Ultra Compact 12 × 24	£89
Compact DCF II 7 × 20	£84
Compact DCF II 9 × 20	£99
Roof Prism DCF 8 × 42	£169
Roof Prism DCF 10 × 42	£189
Roof Prism DCF 8 × 56	£289
Roof Prism DCF 9 × 63	£349
Armoured DCF 7 × 50	£99
Armoured DCF 8 × 40	£99
Armoured DCF 10 × 50	£104
Armoured DCF 12 × 50	£109
Armoured DCF 16 × 50	£119

PHONE FOR SPECIALS

KOWA TELESCOPES

TSN1 & TSN2 Body	£295		
TSN3 & TSN4 Body	£555		
20× Wide	£96	30× Wide	£119
25× and 40×	£63	TSN Zoom	£139
60×	£96	77×	£99
TS601 & TS602	£179	Photo Adapter	£107/£179
25× and 40×	£48	20× Wide	£55
Zoom 601	£99	Cases from	£21

DISCOUNT '92
10% OFF ALL ABOVE PRICES TO BRITISH BIRDS READERS

WALKER of SCARBOROUGH
Professional & Retail Photographers
68-70 St. Thomas Street · SCARBOROUGH · YO11 1DU · Tel. (0723) 365024



British Birds

Established over 80 years

The quality independent monthly magazine for the serious birdwatcher.

Unlike most magazines British Birds does not have a short life. It is not read and then thrown away like a newspaper or glossy bookstall magazine.

A staggering 99.6% of readers keep their copy of British Birds permanently.

British Birds subscribers not only keep their copies permanently, they devote more than two days a week to birdwatching and are prepared to spend to support their hobby. (D805)



RARE BIRD ALERT

This new bird pager ensures that you get to hear of all British rarities as the news breaks. To find out more and to get an information pack & order form:



- Phone **FREE** 0800 246 246
- or call Dick Filby of the Rare Bird Alert team on 0603 767799
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIP** Get a pager, **NOW!**
- Please phone in sightings of rarities to the Rare Bird Alert **HOTLINE** 0426 952 952. Hotline calls charged at local rates. A donation to conservation for every call.
- £10 donated to RSPB for every pager ordered

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London, N9 OUR.

INTER-CITY PAGING

(D950)

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica, one of the top three birding spots worldwide, has more birds than the whole of North America and 10% of the world's species! **Birdwatch Costa Rica** specialise in tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups at affordable rates year-round. **Our advice and assistance based on over 11 years of first-hand experience in Costa Rica.** Write for brochures, checklists, trip itineraries:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA

APARTADO 7911 - 100B SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA
TELEPHONE +506-284768 • FAX +506-281573

(D952)

WELCOME TO 'THE HIDE'. BRITAIN'S LATEST AND BEST OPTICS CENTRE. FOR THE TOP VALUE BINS AND SCOPES, TRIPODS, MOUNTS AND ACCESSORIES, PLUS CORRECT ADVICE, OPINIONS AND AVERAGE COFFEE. LOOK NO FURTHER.

THE HIDE Showroom offers magnificent views over Marston Thrift SSSI and neighbouring countryside, and stocks a carefully selected range of the best instruments money can buy for the beginner and the experienced birder.

We offer a unique consultancy service on a one-to-one basis for both the purchaser and the enquirer, to ensure that every one of our customers makes the correct choice and for the right reasons.

All instruments stocked by THE HIDE are sold by demonstration and visitors may take full advantage of our unique Resolution Chart ensuring that all customers are completely satisfied with their purchase.

THE HIDE
A NEW VIEWPOINT

BINOCULARS

ZEISS
10x40 BGAT 599
7x42 BGAT 589
8x20B 236
8x20 Design 295

LEICA
10x42BA 628
8x42BA 628
7x42BA 628
8x20BC 199
8x20BCA 226
10x25BCA 239

BAUSCH & LOMB
10x42 Elite 628
8x42 Elite 628
8x36 Custom 229

NIKON
8x30 ECF 229
7x35 ECF 199

OPTICRON
10x40 Minerva 179
9x35 Minerva 172
8x40 Minerva 175
7x40 Minerva 172
8x30 Minerva 169
10x50 HRII 178
10x42 HRII 162
8x42 HRII 157
8x32 HRII 152
7x42 HRII 155
10x50 Dioptron 135
10x42 Dioptron 125
8x42 Diopton 122
7x42 Dioptron 121
8x32 Dioptron 117
10x50 Vega II 54.95
10x40 Vega II 54.95
8x40 Vega II 54.95
8x30 Vega II 49.95
10x24 MCF 83
8x24 MCF 81
7x24 MCF 80
Bird Tripod 59.95

OPTOLYTH
10x50 Alpin 268
10x40 Alpin 249
8x40 Alpin 246
7x42 Alpin 257
10x40 Touring 445
7x42 Touring 445
8x30 Touring 395

HABICHT
10x40 Diana 372
8x30SLC 365
8x20 220

ROSS
Kensington 10x42B 179.95
Hanover 10x42B 149.95
Regent 8x42B 169.95
Cavendish 8x42B 139.95

ADLERBLICK
10x42 MC 195.90
8x42 NC 169.95

SWIFT 8.5x44
Audubon 8x44x44 199.99

Introductory offer from THE HIDE. Adventurer 821 Rubber Armoured Monocular FREE with selected binoculars during December and January only.

TELESCOPES

KOWA
TSN4 555
TSN5 555
TSN2 295
TSN1 295

Eyepieces
20xW 96
25x 63
25x Long Eye-relief 99
30xW 119
40x 63
60x 96
77x 99
20-60 Zoom 139
TS-601 179
TS602 179

Eyepieces
20x 55
25x 48
40x 48
20-60 zoom 99

OPTOLYTH
TBG 80 HD (Fluorite) 549
TBS 80 HD (Fluorite) 549
TBG 80 390
TBS 80 390

Eyepieces
20xWW 122
30xWW 135
40xW (good eye relief!) 77
20xW and 30xW 77

NIKON
Fieldscope EDII 20 554
Fieldscope EDII zoom 629
Fieldscope II 20 304
Fieldscope II zoom 379
Spotting Scope RA 20 199

OPTICRON
Piccolo ED 22W + case + UV filter 355
Piccolo ED Zoom + case + UV filter 399
HR80 269
30W 33
20x, 27x, 34x, 55x, 80x eyepieces 31
Soft case 17.50
Photo adaptor (all HR Scopes) 33
HR60 +22xW + case 179.95
HR60 RA +22xW + case 189.95
HR60/45° 22W + case 219.95
15x, 20x, 25x, 40x eyepieces 31
Photokit 64
Piccolo II +22xW + case 159.95
Piccolo II + zoom + case 194.95
Classic 60mm 102
Classic 75mm 140
Eyepieces 24
22-47 zoom 61

Eyepieces
15x, 20x, 25x, 40x 31
Photokit 64
Piccolo II x 22 inc. case 175
Piccolo II zoom inc. case 196
Classic 75mm 140
22xW 24
30x (Eye relief) 27
22-47 zoom 61
Case 13

BAUSCH & LOMB
22x60 Elite scope 309

BUSHNELL
Spacemaster 60mm 145

TRIPODS
Slik D2 72.95

MANFROTTO
190B Legs 44
144B Legs 54
128 Head (quick release) 45
200 Head 50
Tripod Strap 10.50

VELBON
D600 68.95
D500 58.95

ACCESSORIES
Hide mount 40
Universal mount 24.50
Car Window mount 25.50
Tripod strap 7.00
Plus Rainguards, T-mounts and much more.

Velbon 350 Tripod FREE! with any telescope purchased or pay difference for larger model!

The aims of THE HIDE are straightforward

- To provide finest binoculars and telescopes in the world to suit every budget.
- To offer advice and guidance based on a knowledge of optics *second to none.*
- To supply after-sales back-up service for complete peace of mind.
- To provide every customer with our warm relaxed approach, which we feel is essential to making the correct choice.

IS THERE A BETTER WAY OF CHOOSING YOUR OPTICS? WE DON'T THINK SO– TRY US

Our Location
Wood End is situated off the A421 between Bedford and Milton Keynes. Exit the M1 at Junction 13 on to the A421 to Bedford, after 3 miles turn left after Wood End signpost. Follow the road around for 1 mile and then turn right at 'The Hide' sign and we are 300m on the right. Simple. Ordnance Survey Landranger 153. Grid Reference 982-417.

THE HIDE
A NEW VIEWPOINT

☎ 0234 765151

THE HIDE · Lower Wood End Farm · Wood End · Nr Marston Moreteine · Beds MK43 0PA

Mail Order
Stocks permitting, all instruments are despatched the day your order is placed and all customers receive their goods on a full 14 days approval, upon receipt of full remittance.

Opening Times
Tues. - Fri. 9.30am to 4.30pm (up to 5.30 by appointment only)
Saturday 9.30am to 5pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

invites readers of ***British Birds*** *into our membership. If you join the only North American association of and for birders, you will receive* ***Birding****, our bi-monthly magazine which gives active field birders the expertise they seek, and* ***Winging It****, a lively monthly newsletter with the latest happenings and rarities. Many ABA birdwatchers are available to advise or guide visitors to their local areas. These members are listed in our Membership Directory.*

Annual Dues: US$ 37.00 or £20.00. Sterling checks acceptable.

For sample copies, send US$3.50 or £2.00 to:

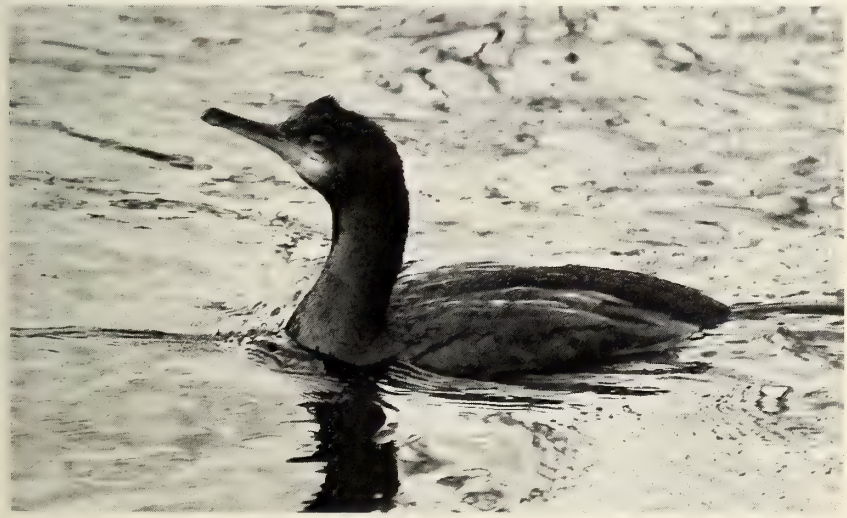
American Birding Association
PO Box 6599 Colorado Springs, CO 80934 USA (D963)

appearance is not constant throughout its range. Geographically from west to east, there is a (somewhat disjointed) cline of decreasing olive and yellow in the plumage. Six or more subspecies are advocated (while Mountain Chiffchaff *P. sindianus* has been incorporated within *P. collybita* by some taxonomists). On the race *tristis* from Siberia and central Asia, olive is very limited and yellow entirely lacking except on the axillaries and on the marginal coverts near the bend of the wing (while some individuals lack yellow even on these areas). On typical *tristis*, yellow is replaced by buff on the supercilium and underparts, the flanks frequently displaying a deep buff suffusion; the upperparts are a drab brown. The form '*fulvescens*' (which has a disjointed distribution in western Siberia and central Asia, and is perhaps best regarded as a morph of *tristis*) is greyer on the upperparts and whiter below. The race *abietinus* of northern and eastern Europe is somewhat intermediate between the nominate race and *tristis*, but the characters of the various races overlap, and the subspecific identity of single individuals can rarely be asserted with confidence. Individuals which combine greyness, a deficiency of olive and yellow, and a rudimentary wing-bar are certainly of easterly origin, however, and the Cape Clear Island individual is a striking example of an 'eastern' Chiffchaff, with all the attendant pitfalls for the unprepared observer. Such individuals reach the coasts of Britain and Ireland with some regularity in late autumn, and are often associated with arrivals of other species of distinctly eastern origin.

A. R. DEAN

2 Charingworth Road, Solihull, West Midlands B92 8HT

8. Mystery photograph 175. Identify the species. Answer next month



County, regional and bird observatory recorders in Britain and Ireland

The main aims of this list are to encourage observers birdwatching away from their home areas to send records to the relevant county recorders, and to provide a source for those collating records on a national basis. Several counties are divided into areas for recording purposes, but, to save space, and because we believe it is less confusing, the list generally includes only one name against each county or region. The names and addresses of observatory recorders or wardens appear separately at the end. We shall be glad to know of any errors, omissions or changes of address, which will be noted in our monthly 'News and comment' feature.

ENGLAND

Avon Dr H. E. Rose, 12 Birbeck Road, Bristol BS9 1BD

Bedfordshire Paul Trodd, 17 Northall Road, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire LU6 2DQ

Berkshire P. E. Standley, Siskins, 7 Llanvair Drive, South Ascot, Berkshire SL5 9HS

Buckinghamshire Andy V. Harding, 15 Jubilee Terrace, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1DU

Cambridgeshire For the old county of Cambridgeshire: C. A. E. Kirtland, 22 Montgomery Road, Cambridge CB4 2EQ. For the old county of Huntingdonshire: John Clark, 7 Westbrook, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 9NW

Cheshire Tony Broome, Sibirica, 9 Vicarage Lane, Poynton, Cheshire SK12 1BG

Cleveland J. B. Dunnett, 43 Hemlington Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG

Cornwall S. M. Christophers, Bramblings, Rachel's Way, St Columb Major, Cornwall TR9 6EP

Cumbria Robert Spencer, Iredale Place Cottage, Loweswater, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0SU

Derbyshire Rodney W. Key, 3 Farningham Close, Spondon, Derby DE2 7DZ

Devon P. W. Ellicott, 34 Maple Road, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon EX4 1BN

Dorset Martin Cade, 12 Littlemoor Road, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6AA

Durham Tony Armstrong, 39 Western Hill, Durham DH1 4RL

Essex Mike Dennis, 173 Collier Row Lane, Romford, Essex RM5 3ED, & John Miller, 450A Baddow Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex

Gloucestershire Andrew Jayne, 9 Hayes Court, Longford, Gloucester

Greater Manchester J. P. Day, 41 Donnington Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 5DX

Hampshire E. J. Wiseman, Normandy Farm, Normandy Lane, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 8AE

Herefordshire Keith A. Mason, The Sett, Common Hill, Fownhope, Hereford HR1 4QA

Hertfordshire Rob Young, 28 Tring Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire HP23 4QL

Humberside See Lincolnshire and Yorkshire

Isle of Wight D. B. Wooldridge, 'Pictou', Church Street, Niton, Isle of Wight PO38 2BX

Isles of Scilly W. H. Wagstaff, 42 Sally Port, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly TR21 0JE

Kent I. P. Hodgson & T. N. Hodge, 73 Middle Deal Road, Deal, Kent CT14 9RG

Lancashire M. Jones, 31 Laverton Road, St Annes-on-Sea, Lancashire FY8 1EW

Leicestershire Roger E. Davis, 31 Tysoe Hill, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8AR

Lincolnshire Graham P. Catley, 13 West Acridge, Barton-on-Humber, North Lincolnshire DN18 5AJ

London Mark A. Hardwick, Flat 12, 9/11 Belsize Grove, London NW3 4UU

Merseyside See Cheshire and Lancashire

Norfolk P. R. Allard, 39 Mallard Way, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth

Northamptonshire R. W. Bullock, 81 Cavendish Drive, Northampton NN3 3HL

Northumberland B. N. Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1SX

Nottinghamshire J. A. Hopper, 4 Shipley Rise, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 1BN
Oxfordshire John W. Brucker, 65 Yarnton Road, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1AT
Shropshire Geoffrey R. Smith, Church Cottage, Leebotwood, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6NE
Somerset Brian Rabbitts, Flat 4, Osborne House, 15A Esplanade, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1BG
Staffordshire Mrs Gilly Jones, 4 The Poplars, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 3AA
Suffolk Philip Murphy, 24 Henstead Gardens, Ipswich IP3 9LN
Surrey J. J. Wheatley, 6 Boxgrove Avenue, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1XG
Sussex, East and West Paul James, 23 Islingword Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 2XG
Tyne & Wear See Durham and Northumberland
Warwickshire Steve Haynes, 4 Spinney Close, Old Arley, Coventry CV7 8PD
West Midlands T. Hextell, 49 Cradley Croft, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8HP
Wiltshire R. Turner, 14 Ethendun, Bratton, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4RX
Worcestershire Steve Whitehouse, 5 Stanway Close, Rudyard Gardens, Blackpole, Worcester WR4 9XL
Yorkshire, North, South and West, and North Humberside W. F. Curtis, Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Atwick, Driffield, East Yorkshire YO25 8DH

IRELAND

Republic of Ireland Rare Birds: Patrick Smiddy, Ballykenneally, Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, Ireland; all other species: Oran O'Sullivan, 3 The Willows, Orwell Road, Dublin 6, Ireland
Northern Ireland Chris Murphy, Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association, 12 Belvoir Close, Belvoir Park, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT8 4PL

ISLE OF MAN

Dr J. P. Cullen, Troutbeck, Braddan, Isle of Man

SCOTLAND

Dumfries & Galloway (Nithsdale, Annandale & Eskdale) Ken Bruce, Mallaig, Wellington Street, Glencaple, Dumfries DG1 4RA
Dumfries & Galloway (Stewartry & Wigtown) Paul N. Collin, Gairland, Old Edinburgh Road, Minnigaff, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire DG8 6PL
Strathclyde (Kyle & Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley, Kilmarnock & Loudoun, Cunninghame) R. H. Hogg, Kirklea, Crosshill, Maybole, Ayrshire KA19 7RJ
Strathclyde (old counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Dunbarton, and Stirling and Perth within Clyde drainage area) I. P. Gibson, c/o Beck, 1 Rosebank Terrace, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire PA13 4EW
Strathclyde (Arran, Bute, Cumbraes) Bernard Zonfrillo, 28 Brodie Road, Glasgow G21 3SB
Strathclyde (Argyll & Bute, except Isle of Bute) Mike Madders, Gruinart, Bridgend, Isle of Islay PA44 7PS
Borders (Berwickshire, Ettrick & Lauderdale, Roxburgh, Tweeddale) R. D. Murray, 4 Bellfield Crescent, Eddleston, Peebles, Borders EH45 8RQ
Lothian (East Lothian, except Musselburgh lagoons) P. R. Gordon, 4 Craigielaw, Longniddry, East Lothian EH32 0PY
Lothian (except as above, but including Musselburgh lagoons) Chris C. McGuigan, 10/9 Blair Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QR
Central (Clackmannan, Falkirk, Stirling) Dr C. J. Henty, 7 Coneyhill Road, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire FK9 4EL
Fife (Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, NE Fife) D. E. Dickson, 45 Hawthorn Terrace, Thornton, Fife KY1 4DZ
Fife (Isle of May) Ian M. Darling, West Acres, 597 Lanark Road West, Balerno, Edinburgh EH4 7BL
Tayside (Perth & Kinross) Wendy Mattingley, Cluny House, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JT

Tayside (Angus, City of Dundee) Stuart R. Green, 41 Laird Street, Downfield, Dundee DD3 9QF
Grampian (except Moray) Ken Shaw, 4 Headland Court, Newtonhill, near Stonehaven, Kincardine AB3 2SF
Grampian/Highland (Moray, Nairn) M. J. H. Cook, Rowanbrae, Clochan, Buckie, Banffshire AB5 2EQ
Highland (except Caithness and Sutherland) R. H. Dennis, Inchdryne, Nethybridge, Inverness-shire PH25 3EF
Highland (Caithness) E. W. E. Maughan, Burnside, Reay, Thurso, Caithness KW14 7RG
Highland (Sutherland) A. R. Mainwood, 13 Ben Bhraggie Drive, Golspie, Sutherland KW10 6SX
Western Isles (Harris, Lewis) W. A. J. Cunningham, 10 Barony Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2TQ
Western Isles (Uists, Benbecula, Barra) T. J. Dix, 2 Dreumasdal, South Uist PA81 5RT
Orkney C. J. Booth, 34 High Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1AZ
Shetland (Fair Isle) Paul Harvey, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU
Shetland (except Fair Isle) Dave Suddaby, 92 Sandveien, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0RU

WALES

Clwyd (Denbighshire and Flintshire) Peter Rathbone, Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Clwyd CH7 4QD
Dyfed (Cardiganshire) P. E. Davis, Felindre, Aberarth, Aberaeron, Dyfed SA46 0LP
Dyfed (Carmarthenshire) D. H. V. Roberts, 6 Gery-y-coed, Pontiets, Llanelli, Dyfed SA15 5UN
Dyfed (Pembrokeshire) J. W. Donovan, The Burren, 5 Dingle Lane, Crundale, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA62 4DJ
Gwent Chris Jones, 283 Malpas Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 6WA
Gwynedd (Anglesey, Caernarvonshire) Alan Davies, 21 Berth-y-Glwd, Gyffin, Conwy, Gwynedd LL32 8NP
Gwynedd (Merionethshire) R. Thorpe, Tan-y-Garth, Friog, Fairbourne, Gwynedd LL38 2RG
Mid Glamorgan J. R. Smith, 15 Milton Drive, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF31 4QE
Powys (Breconshire) M. F. Peers, Gorse Bank, Llangammarch Wells, Powys LD4 4AA
Powys (Montgomeryshire) Brayton Holt, Scops Cottage, Pentre Beirdd, Welshpool, Powys SY21 9DL
Powys (Radnorshire) Pete Jennings, Garnfawr Bungalow, Bettws, Hundred House, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5RP
South Glamorgan Phil Bristow, 10 Lisvane Street, Cathays, Cardiff CF2 4LL
West Glamorgan H. E. Grenfell, The Woods, 14 Bryn Terrace, Mumbles, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA3 4HD

BIRD OBSERVATORIES

The names listed here are those of the recorders, not the bookings secretaries:
Bardsey S. W. Walker, Bird Observatory, Bardsey, off Aberdaron, Gwynedd
Calf of Man Norman McCanch, Calf of Man Bird Observatory, c/o Juan Clague Kionslieu, Plantation Hill, Port St Mary, Isle of Man
Cape Clear K. Preston, The Rennies, Boreenmanna Road, Cork, Ireland
Copeland N. D. McKee, 67 Temple Rise, Templepatrick, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland BT39 0AG
Dungeness David Walker, Bird Observatory, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9NA
Fair Isle Paul Harvey, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland
Gibraltar Point The Warden, Gibraltar Point NNR, Skegness, Lincolnshire PE24 4SU
Isle of May Ian M. Darling, West Acres, 579 Lanark Road West, Balerno, Edinburgh EH14 7BL
North Ronaldsay Dr K. F. Woodbridge, Twingness, North Ronaldsay, Orkney KW17 2BE
Portland M. Rogers, Bird Observatory, Old Lower Light, Portland, Dorset DT5 2JT
Sandwich Bay Michael Sykes, Bird Observatory, Guilford Road, Sandwich Bay, Kent FT13 9PF
Spurn B. R. Spence, Bird Observatory, Spurn, Kilnsea, via Patrington, Hull HU12 0UG
Walney K. Parkes, 176 Harrogate Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LN14 5NA

Sponsored by

Monthly marathon

October's fast-departing barred bird (plate 231) was named as:

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*	(84%)
Saker *F. cherrug*	(8%)
Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*	(4%)
Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula*	(3%)

with fewer votes for Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, Levant Sparrowhawk *A. brevipes*, Lesser Kestrel *F. naumanni*, Gyrfalcon *F. rusticolus*, Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* and Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*.

Too easy! This first-summer male Red-footed Falcon in Shetland in June 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 458) was photographed by Larry Dalziel.

The leaders in this competition to win a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday to Africa, Asia or North America are G. P. Catley, P. A. Clark, R. J. Fowling, Roy Hargreaves, C. D. R. Heard, Erik Hirschfeld, Hannu Jännes, P. G. Lansdown, Pekka J. Nikander, Dave Nurney and Jouni Riihimäki (all on six-in-a-row sequences), with Mrs S. K. Armstrong hot on their heels, just one hurdle behind the leaders (with five in a row).

The rules (see below) are very precise and should be read in detail to avoid disqualification. The next hurdle appears as plate 9. Have a go! (But do read those rules first.)

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



9. Fifth 'Monthly marathon' (eighteenth stage: photograph number 67). Identify the species. *Read the rules (below)*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 28th February 1992

RULES

1. Only current individual subscribers to *British Birds* are eligible to take part. Entrants should give their name, address and *BB* reference number on their entry. Only one entry is permitted per person each month.
2. Entries must be sent by post, each one on a separate postcard, and be received at the *British Birds* Editorial Office (Monthly marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ) by 15th of succeeding month. Every care will be taken, but, even if negligence is involved, no responsibility can be accepted for non-delivery, non-receipt or accidental loss of entries.
3. All 'BB' subscribers are eligible, *except* members of the Editorial Board and staff of *British Birds*, Directors and members of staff of SUNBIRD/WINGS Holidays, and Directors and members of staff of our printers, Newnorth Print Ltd. (Members of 'BB' Notes Panels, the Rarities Committee, and other voluntary contributors—including bird-photographers, even if one of their photographs is used in the competition—are eligible unless proscribed above.)
4. To win, a *British Birds* subscriber must correctly identify the species shown in ten consecutive photographs included in this competition. The 'Monthly marathon' will continue until the prize has been won.

5. In the unlikely event of two or more 'BB' subscribers achieving the ten-in-a-row simultaneously, the competition will continue each month until one of them (or someone else!) achieves a longer run of correct entries than any other contestant.
6. In the event of any dispute, including controversy over the identity of any of the birds in the photographs, the decision of the Managing Editor of *British Birds* is final and binding on all parties.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The name and address of the winner will be announced in *British Birds*.

Reviews

Bird Trapping and Bird Banding: a handbook for trapping methods all over the World. By Hans Bub. Translated by Frances Hammerstrom & Karin Wuertz-Schaefer. Cornell University Press, New York, 1991. 330 pages; 158 black-and-white plates; 298 line-drawings and figures. $69.50.

Originally published in German in 1978, this important work by Hans Bub has now been translated into English. The subject of the book is bird capture, with some additional reference to other aspects of bird-ringing (banding), and it is the most comprehensive volume available, drawing from both a broad geographical and a historical range of sources. It will be a particularly valuable source of ideas for students of elusive species who are trying to devise effective methods to capture their subjects of study.

Two forewords, by George Jonkel, Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Chris Mead, Head of the British Bird-Ringing Scheme at the British Trust for Ornithology, both carefully explain that bird capture in most countries is now permissible only by trained and licensed bird-ringers for scientific investigation. Fears that this book might impart the secrets of mass bird-catching to illegal bird-trappers are largely allayed by its emphasis on techniques developed before about 1970. Ornithologists will learn much from the descriptions of the techniques of the Mediterranean and tropical bird-catchers, but it is unlikely that the bird-catchers would discover much of use to them that they do not know already, even if they do decide to pay the high price for the book.

Nowadays, most bird-ringers use mistnets, with the largest catches resulting from the assistance of tape-recorded bird song. Although mentioned, these techniques are not covered as fully as those developed in the first half of the century and before. This is somewhat unfortunate, because great emphasis on the safety of captured birds has been placed by the main national ringing schemes in recent years, and some of the observations and techniques mentioned would now no longer be considered acceptable.

Rather more than half of the book is taken up with descriptions of various types of bird traps, the most remarkable of which was a gigantic North American funnel trap designed to catch Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* and icterids for pest-control purposes. This trap caught 300,000 birds in three nights, out of a roost of 10-15 million.

There are numerous interesting illustrations, with some of the most charming showing ancient Egyptian duck-hunting with decoy birds and a boomerang, a remarkable fourteenth-century Italian double clap net which looks identical to present-day clap nets, and seventeenth-century drag netting. Perhaps the most surprising of all, though, is that of the Dutch bird-ringer who buries himself in a refuse tip, with a plastic bag over his head, so that he can grab gulls. On good days, he can catch up to 50 per hour.

The book concludes with an extensive bibliography. STEPHEN RUMSEY

Birds. By Rob Hume. Hamlyn Children's Books, London, 1991. 128 pages; numerous colour plates and drawings. Paperback £5.95.

Open this children's field guide for the first time and flick through the pages and the impression is of a bright and interesting book. There is a lively mix of artwork, crisp colour-photographs and snippets of text in easy-to-handle chunks.

The book is structured in the usual field-guide way: birdy bits and pieces, habitats, and species accounts. Each double-page spread covers a different group of birds, and project boxes add ideas for things to do and to look out for.

The text is well written, with short descriptions and an introduction to each group that manages to convey a real 'feel' for the birds. We expect this now from the master of jizz himself.

The choice of species is sometimes not obvious. Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* sits a little uncomfortably on the woodpecker pages, for example. Colour-coded maps help with this initially confusing mix of British birds and 'rare visitors'.

The artwork, in places, is what really lets this book down. Some is good, but there are rather too many mediocre illustrations, and the Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* stoops to a real low.

This book will be most useful filling the niche between a first book of birds and an adult field guide. Three other titles—*Mammals*, *Seashores* and *Butterflies and Insects*—complete the set.

JOAN CHILDS

Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion. Band 6/Teil 1. Charadriiformes (Lari): Stercorariidae, Laridae (Larinae und Sterninae). Edited by V. D. Il'ičev and V. A. Zubakin. A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittenberg Lutherstadt, 1990. 367 pages, 16 colour plates, 87 figures and maps. DM 98.00.

Following volumes 1 and 4 (see reviews in *Brit. Birds* 79: 269-270; 83: 30-31), this is the third part of this German translation of the ten-volume handbook of Soviet birds to appear, the original Russian edition having been published in 1988.

This first part of volume 6 covers all the skuas (five species), gulls (23) and terns (ten). These include such (to Europeans) lesser-known species as South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*, Relict Gull *Larus relictus*, Brown-headed Gull *L. brunnicephalus*, Saunders's Gull *L. saundersi*, Slaty-backed Gull *L. schistisagus*, Glaucous-winged Gull *L. glaucescens*, Black-tailed Gull *L. crassirostris* and Red-legged Kittiwake *Rissa brevirostris*, among others. Those familiar with Voous's taxonomy will find a number of surprises: for example, for Little Gull *L. minutus*, the Russians have followed Wolters's (1975) world list in resurrecting the genus *Hydrocoloeus* (Kaup, 1829). All such decisions, however, are explained: each species account has a section on systematics.

Good treatment is accorded to each species. For example, the 10½-page text (text area 140 × 202 mm) on Great Black-headed Gull *L. ichthyaetus* includes over 3½ pages on distribution and movements and over two pages on breeding, while seven pages are devoted to the little-known Relict Gull, compared with a total of 11 for Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*. There are two pages on the virtually unknown Saunders's Gull, but the German edition has missed the opportunity to mention the recent discovery of the Chinese breeding grounds of this species. Within 18 pages on the Herring Gull *L. argentatus*, the extremely complex taxonomy of the *argentatus-fuscus* group is discussed, but the reader is unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, left with not much clearer a picture than before.

Each species has two maps (redrawn for this German edition): one gives world range and the other details distribution within the USSR, in each case showing breeding and wintering ranges and frequently (where relevant) also records of vagrants and directions of movements. Together with the comprehensive texts on distribution, wintering and movements, these maps are possibly the most valuable part of this volume for the average *British Birds* reader (assuming, of course, that he/she has a knowledge of German). The texts do not confine themselves solely to the situation in the USSR, but include (briefer) information from the entire range, thereby producing a more universal picture for each species; similar treatment is given to data on populations.

The colour plates are rather unremarkable and should have shown more examples of non-adult plumages, the more so bearing in mind the particular problems encountered with this suborder.

The second part of volume 6 of this important reference work will cover all the auks (suborder Alcae).

DAVID A. CHRISTIE

Notes



Little Grebes sunning in winter At 11.30 GMT on 4th November 1988, in Chichester Harbour, West Sussex, I observed three Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis* loafing between the yachts in Birdham marina. The yachts were moored closely, side by side, and each grebe was in a similar position less than 1 m from the bows of larger vessels. All three grebes had been stationary for some time, when first one and then a second started to dive; after each dive they returned to their former positions. The third never moved off station, and remained motionless except for one brief bout of preening; this individual was facing into the sun, with its rear towards the vessel, and had both its tail-coverts and its wings slightly raised. I concluded that all three grebes were deliberately exposing themselves to the weak, but nevertheless warm, winter sunshine on a morning when the air temperature was still very low following an overnight frost. Furthermore, their exact positioning was clearly deliberate: providing complete protection from the prevailing breeze, direct radiant heat from the sun, and reflected radiation from the bows of the vessels (which, by virtue of their shape, would have been acting as parabolic reflectors).

The general literature on sunning, and specifically that relating to grebes (Storer *et al.* 1975), gives no examples of the use of reflected sunlight. The circumstances and the grebes' behaviour, however, seem to fit well with the sun-basking classification, proposed by Simmons (1986), for the purpose of thermoregulation. Coots *Fulica atra* and Tufted Ducks *Aythya fuligula* were also present on the water: both species were keeping in the sun, preening and diving, but they were concentrated in the channels of open water, well away from any vessels.

S. W. M. HUGHES
6 West Way, Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7SB

Dr K. E. L. Simmons has commented: 'These winter observations nicely confirm my suggestion that grebes sun themselves mainly in order to gain heat. Such sun-basking, as Storer and his co-authors have shown, occurs only in the smaller species of grebes, with one significant exception—the Hooded Grebe *P. gallardoi* of Southern Patagonia, which inhabits a particularly cold and windy environment (Storer 1982). Like the smaller species, the Hooded Grebe has the skin of the back and rump and the bases of the overlying feathers darkly pigmented, an adaptation for absorbing solar heat.' EDS

REFERENCES

SIMMONS, K. E. L. 1986. *The Sunning Behaviour of Birds: a guide for ornithologists.* Bristol.
STORER, R. W. 1982. The Hooded Grebe on Laguna de los Escarchados: ecology and behavior. *Living Bird* 19: 51-67.
——, SIEGFRIED, W. R., & KINAHAN, J. 1975. Sunbathing in grebes. *Living Bird* 14: 45-56.

Immature Little Grebe attacking Black-headed Gull On 13th November 1988, along the River Don in industrial Sheffield, South Yorkshire, I watched an adult and four immature Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

loafing at a weir-pool close to their breeding territory. About a dozen Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* were feeding above the pool when one gull, hovering within 1 m of the water surface, was attacked by a nearby immature grebe; the latter jumped at the gull, almost (but not quite) completely leaving the water. This was repeated three or four times within about two minutes, the grebe never quite managing to make contact, until the gull moved to a different part of the pool. The gull had shown no aggression towards the grebe, either before or during the seemingly unprovoked assault, although the grebe presumably felt threatened by its close presence. I have not previously witnessed this type of aggressive behaviour by Little Grebes, nor is there any reference to it in *BWP* (vol. 1).

A. J. Morris
4a Raven Road, Sheffield S7 1SB

Concealing posture of Mallard On 12th November 1988, I was walking along the banks of Skirden Beck, near its confluence with the River Ribble at Bolton by Bowland, Lancashire. This stretch has no emergent or overhanging vegetation. As I rounded a bend, something about 25 m ahead moved rapidly to the bank, where the movement ceased and I was unable to detect what had caused it. I raised my binoculars and was surprised to see a male Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* which had 'frozen' in an elongated posture, with its head and neck resting on the bank and its body still floating in the water. When I lowered my binoculars again, the dark head looked just like one of the many stones in that area, while the pale-coloured body merged with the water; with the naked eye it was impossible to tell what the object was until I was much nearer. The Mallard finally sprang from the water when I was only about 4 m away.

A. A. Cooper
28 Peel Park Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1ET

Feeding groups of Common Scoters containing other species *BWP* (vol. 1) states that Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* form dense rafts in winter, but tend to feed in smaller, more scattered groups whose individuals make synchronised mass dives. No mention is made, however, of other species feeding in these groups. In 1986/87, about 500 Common Scoters wintered in Luce Bay, Dumfries & Galloway. Feeding parties were sometimes widely scattered, but, from November 1986 to February 1987, one small group of up to 42 scoters regularly fed 100-200 m off a rocky shore. At times, six other species fed in these groups of scoters (table 1),

Table 1. Composition of feeding groups of Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* and other species in Luce Bay, west Galloway, in winter 1986/87

Date	Composition of feeding groups
15 Nov 86	17 Common Scoters, 8 Red-throated Divers *Gavia stellata*
28 Dec 86	9 Common Scoters, 1 Red-throated Diver, 2 Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, 1 Razorbill *Alca torda*
4 Jan 87	15 Common Scoters, 2 Red-throated Divers, 1 Great Northern Diver *G. immer*
12 Jan 87	42 Common Scoters, 1 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
14 Feb 87	12 Common Scoters, 3 Great Crested Grebes
21 Feb 87	9 Common Scoters, 3 Long-tailed Ducks *Clangula hyemalis*

and, when feeding, all the species would dive close together, sometimes in a tightly knit group, diving and surfacing synchronously. They could have been feeding on molluscs and/or fish, but none was brought to the surface. Similar behaviour occurred on four dates in the winters of 1987/88 and 1988/89, when up to four different species again fed in close proximity; the largest group, on 25th November 1988, comprised 20 scoters, two Great Crested Grebes *Podiceps cristatus*, eight Slavonian Grebes *P. auritus* and two Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. There was no apparent advantage to any of the species involved in feeding together; presumably, they were all exploiting an available food source. R. C. DICKSON

Lismore, New Luce, Newton Stewart DG8 0AJ

Aerial prey-capture technique of Little Gull On 7th April and 8th September 1988, during two visits to Crosby Marina, Liverpool, Merseyside, I watched groups of, respectively, 17 and six Little Gulls *Larus minutus* feeding in a manner unlike that described in the literature. Rather than dipping down to the surface and snapping up insects, they rose sharply a metre or so from horizontal flight and then threw their heads right back, opening their bills wide in a flycatching snap, before dropping back on to their original flight path. So distinctive was this action, often with several individuals independently involved in flights containing a number of flycatching peaks, that the gulls could be picked out quite easily from the opposite side of the marina 0.8 km away. On both occasions, flying insects were abundant over the marina. P. I. MORRIS

Caughall Farmhouse Cottage, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, Cheshire CH2 4BW

Other gulls, perhaps especially Black-headed *L. ridibundus*, are, of course, frequently to be seen feeding in flight on swarming flying ants, particularly in late summer. EDS

Herring Gull using wind shear over land A flight technique used almost exclusively by the larger seabirds exploits vertical wind shear (the change in wind speed with altitude) in the atmospheric surface boundary layer immediately above the ocean. Such a technique, known as dynamic soaring, is probably unusual in its pure form, as the use of air currents deflected upwards by waves plays a significant part in this method of energy conservation. I should therefore like to place on record an event observed and described to me by A. W. Grice.

Around midday on 4th September 1988, a Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* flew south across an airfield in Fife, apparently exploiting vertical wind shear. The wind direction and speed at 10 m above the ground (approximately the maximum altitude reached by the gull) were SW 10 m/s, with gusts to 15 m/s (force 5 to 7). From a level just above the ground, the gull gained height by flapping into the wind; near its maximum altitude, the flapping eased, and the gull then glided down to the ground at about 90° to the wind, whereupon it turned again into the wind to repeat the process a further three times. Apart from a tarmac runway, the terrain over which the Herring Gull flew was flat and grassy, so that, although some turbulence was present, organised thermal

upcurrents were considered to have been absent. Some of the power used by the gull to gain height was obviously provided by the flapping, but otherwise this was clearly a case of exploitation of wind shear, with the wind speed close to the ground reduced by friction, a fact that AWG was quick to realise as he made the observation.

I can find no specific reference to gull flight across the wind in this manner, and none at all of any species doing this over land. The normal lack of uniformity in land surfaces probably precludes such a flight technique in strong winds, owing to the formation of eddies in airflows over broken terrain, while the flow over flat surfaces more closely resembles that over a smooth sea.

NORMAN ELKINS
18 Scotstarvit View, Cupar, Fife KY15 4DX

Dr J. M. V. Rayner has commented that he is unaware of any previous reports of dynamic soaring by gulls, or by any species over land. EDS

Breeding-range changes of Red-rumped Swallow in Yugoslavia Since the 1950s, the Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* has been recorded in increasingly greater numbers throughout Europe far outside the borders of its usual breeding area (e.g. Dymond *et al.* 1989). This has coincided with northward expansions of the breeding range.

Prior to this range expansion, the Red-rumped Swallow bred in Yugoslavia only in the south, in Montenegro (Grossmann 1910; Rohaček 1916; Reiser 1933) and Macedonia (Makatsch 1950)(fig. 1). A scatter of



Fig. 1. Breeding distribution of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* in Yugoslavia up to 1950. Small dots show breeding records; large dots indicate non-breeding records

non-breeding records outside the breeding range, in Dalmatia (Tutman 1956), Istria (Bernhauer 1957) and Serbia (Matvejev 1957; Antal *et al.* 1971), was the first indication of a spread (fig. 1). Range expansion developed in two main directions: in the eastern part (Serbia), through river valleys to the north, and along the Adriatic coast to the northwest.

The first evidence of a spread to the northwest was from southern Dalmatia on the Adriatic coast (Géroudet 1960; Tutman 1980; Grünhagen 1988) and to the north from the extreme south of Serbia (Vasić *et al.* 1980)(fig. 2). Up to 1980, the range extension in the eastern part of Yugoslavia included the discovery of breeding localities in southern and eastern Serbia, and in the western part new breeding localities in Herzegovina (Obratil 1976, 1982)(fig. 2).

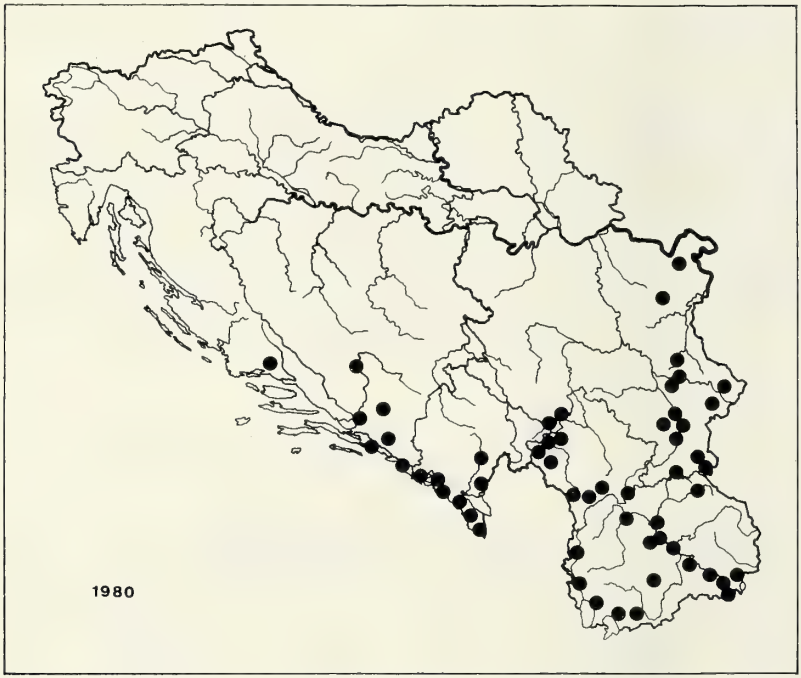


Fig. 2. Breeding distribution of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* in Yugoslavia up to 1980. Dots show breeding records

Since 1980 (fig. 3), there has been further range extension, in eastern Yugoslavia in western Serbia (Marinković & Vuinović 1986; Mikuska *in litt.*) and in western Yugoslavia across the Adriatic coast up to the Italian frontier in Slovenia. Further new breeding localities were found on the Adriatic coast, in northern Dalmatia, showing northwesterly penetration from the former breeding range. In southern Dalmatia, the number of Red-rumped Swallows also increased. Only two new breeding localities were discovered on the part of the Adriatic coast between north Dalmatia and Istria, but previously we recorded the first nest in Istria in 1987 and soon after that discovered other new breeding localities in Istria (Stipčević

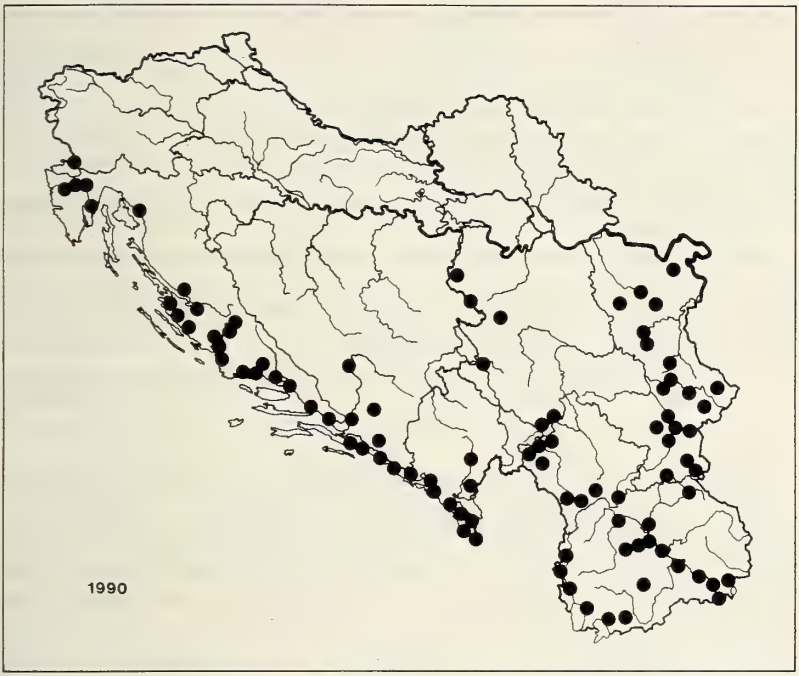


Fig. 3. Breeding distribution of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* in Yugoslavia up to 1990. Dots show breeding records

& Lukač in press). Recently, Red-rumped Swallows have also been discovered breeding in Slovenia (Ota 1989).

By 1990, following this expansion, the breeding range of the Red-rumped Swallow in Yugoslavia covered southern, eastern and western Serbia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, part of the Adriatic coast north from the Velebit mountain coastal area, central and eastern Istria and the southwestern part of Slovenia. Considerable range expansion is obvious since 1980 in the western part of Yugoslavia, and most recent discoveries of breeding localities reveal that this spread is still continuing.

MAURICIO STIPČEVIĆ and GORDAN LUKAČ
Marka Marulića 29, 57000 Zadar, Croatia, Yugoslavia;
Faculty of Science, Department of Botany, Marulićev trg 20/II,
41000 Zagreb, Croatia, Yugoslavia

REFERENCES

ANTAL, L., FERNBACH, J., MIKUSKA, J., PELLE, I., & SZLIVKA, L. 1971. Namenverzeichnis der Vögel der A. P. Vojvodina. *Larus* 23: 72-127.

BERNHAUER, W. 1957. Ornithologische Beobachtungen an der Adriaküste. *Larus* 9-10: 143-148.

DYMOND, J. N., FRASER, P. A., & GANTLETT, S. J. M. 1989. *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Calton.

GÉROUDET, P. 1960. Observations de l'Hirondelle rousseline, *Hirundo daurica*, en Monténégro. *Larus* 12-13: 37-39.

GROSSMANN, E. 1910. Neue noch nicht nachgewiesene Vögel der Bocche di Cattaro. *Ornith. Jahrb.* 21: 181-182.
GRÜNHAGEN, H. 1988. Rötelschwalbe (*Cecropis daurica*) Brutvögel in Mitteldalmatien. *Die Vogelwelt* 109: 38.
MAKATSCH, W. 1950. *Die Vogelwelt Macedoniens.* Leipzig.
MATVEJEV, S. D. 1957. Spreading of the Red-rumped Swallow. *Aquila* 63-64: 259, 329.
MARINKOVIĆ, S., & VUINOVIĆ, D. 1986. Red-rumped Swallow: new breeding species of western Serbia. *Larus* 36-37: 327-328.
OBRATIL, S. 1976. New data for the Ornitofauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Glasnik zemaljskog muzeja* 15: 215-219.
—— 1982. The range of Red-rumped Swallow in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Glasnik zemaljskog muzeja* 21: 173-182.
OTA, D. 1989. Breeding of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* in the Glinščica Valley near Trieste. *Acrocephalus* 39-40: 2-6.
REISER, O. 1933. Mitteilung über Balkanvögel. *J. Orn.* 81: 366-370.
ROHAČEK, F. 1916. Übersicht über die Brutvögel der Bocche di Cattaro. *Ornith. Jahrb.* 27: 116-129.
STIPČEVIĆ, M., & LUKAČ, G. In press. Survey of spreading and breeding range changes of the Red-rumped Swallow in Yugoslavia.
TUTMAN, I. 1956. Observations of the Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica* (L.) in Dubrovnik. *Larus* 8: 153-154.
—— 1980. *Composition and dynamics of different bird populations of Dubrovnik region.* PhD thesis, University of Sarajevo.
VASIĆ, V. F., MATVEJEV, S. D., & HAM, I. 1980. Present range of the Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica rufula* Temm., in SR Serbia and adjacent countries. *Zbornik radova o fauni SR Srbije*, SANU, Knjiga 1, pp. 85-100.

[This contribution was submitted in August 1990 and accepted for publication in November 1990. EDS]

Great Spotted Woodpecker apparently feeding on nectar On several occasions during June and July 1988, in a large garden next to woodland in Bergh Apton, Norfolk, I watched an adult female Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* feeding at flowerheads of a red-hot-poker plant *Kniphofia*. She would perch upright on a flower stem below the flowerhead and deliberately insert her bill into the tubular florets, repeating this quickly while moving around the flowerhead. Having moved once around the flowerhead, selecting clusters of florets apparently at random, she would move on to another, usually visiting five to seven of the 11 flowerheads before moving off. On close inspection, a small drop of nectar was visible inside most florets, clusters of which around the flowerhead had been split open by the insertion of the woodpecker's bill, presumably to obtain this nectar. There did not seem to be enough insects present on the plant to justify the time spent by the woodpecker, and none could be seen inside any of the florets. The adult woodpecker was sometimes accompanied into the garden by a single juvenile; the latter occasionally perched briefly on the flower stems, but was never seen feeding at the flowerheads in the way that the adult did.

Between 1st and 22nd June 1989, a male and a female Great Spotted Woodpecker visited the same plant, always separately (plate 10). A total of 120 visits was recorded, with a peak of 16 on 15th June. D. LESTER

Bell View, Hellington Corner, Bergh Apton, Norfolk NR15 1BE

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Alerstam *Bird Migration* (CUP) £55.00 ☐
Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP) £22.50 ☐
Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins) £14.99 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm) £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐
*Brown & Amadon *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World* SPECIAL OFFER Hardback £47.50 ☐
*Bub *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding* (Cornell) £49.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* 4th edn (Ibis) £19.00 ☐
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Duff, Hatton, Stirrup & Williams *Not BB V* Paperback £2.50 ☐
Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond) (DUE SOON) £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser) £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £85.00 ☐ vol. 2 £85.00 ☐ vol. 3 £89.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser) £18.50 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00) £10.00 ☐
Hilty & Brown *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia* (Princeton) Paperback £30.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐
*Holmes & Nash *The Birds of Sumatra and Kalimantan* (OUP) £6.95 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press) Hardback £22.50 ☐
*Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP) £19.95 ☐
Johnsgard *Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse: birds of dry places* (OUP) £60.00 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £24.00 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £35.00 ☐
*Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
*Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser) (DUE FEBRUARY) £18.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* £12.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xiv to complete your order.

British BirdShop (continued)

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Newman *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa* (Southern Books) (1991 edn.) Paperback £15.95 ☐
Oddie *Birdwatching for the Under Tens* (Philip) £6.99 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (British Birds) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
*Ratcliffe & Rose *Bird Life of Mountain and Upland* (CUP) £19.50 ☐
RAOU *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU/OUP) £125.00 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £24.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Stiles & Skutch *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* (Helm) Paperback £35.00 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
*van Rhijn & Willis *The Ruff* (Poyser) £18.50 ☐
Warham *The Petrels: their ecology and breeding systems* (Academic Press) £29.50 ☐
*Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France) £46.00 ☐
Yekutiel *Raptors in Israel* (IBWC) Paperback £10.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) £6.95 ☐

Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING JANUARY 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro a/c no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**



10. Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* feeding from floret of flowerhead of red-hot-poker *Kniphofia*, Norfolk, June 1989 (*D. Lester*)

Blue Tits as pollinators of the crown imperial At the end of April and the beginning of May in 1986, 1987 and 1988, in the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden, Cambridge, Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* were regularly observed visiting flowers of crown imperials *Fritillaria imperialis* (plates 11-13). The tits repeatedly visited the large pendulous flowers throughout the day. Some of the flowers, especially those early in the season, were damaged by an unidentified species of finch (Fringillidae). The Blue Tits flew to the bare stems supporting the whorls of flowers and, by climbing these, introduced their heads into the corollas, apparently to probe one or more of the six large nectaries at the internal base of each petal. This procedure was repeated in up to seven flowers on different plants of the same clump before the tits flew to nearby trees. Visits were generally made by more than one tit at a time: usually two, but groups of



11-13. Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* visiting flowers of crown imperials *Fritillaria imperialis*, Cambridgeshire, May 1988 (*Alberto Búrquez*)



three or four were also observed. The tits were seen to be carrying pollen grains in their plumage.

Flowers in clumps known to have been visited by Blue Tits set many fruits, while clumps in other parts of the garden where no visits were

recorded had a zero fruit set. Accounts of Blue Tits visiting flowers are numerous (e.g. Ash 1959; Ash *et al.* 1961; England 1969; Soper 1969; Visik 1977; Ford 1985; Kay 1985). The 'fit' between the tit body and the flower suggests that this plant may be pollinated by birds in its native range in Turkey, Iran and Kashmir.

These observations have been reported in more detail recently (Búrquez 1989). Subsequently, Dr Martin Richards (*in litt.*) reported seeing Blue Tits visiting the flowers of crown imperials on two occasions in his Cambridgeshire garden, and Dr Spencer C. H. Barrett (verbally) reported Orchard/Northern Orioles *Icterus spurius/galbula* visiting crown imperial blooms in the garden of the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

ALBERTO BÚRQUEZ
Centro de Ecología, UNAM, Apartado Postal 1354, Hermosillo, Sonora 83000, Mexico

REFERENCES

ASH, J. S. 1959. Pollen contamination of birds. *Brit. Birds* 52: 424-426.
——, HOPE JONES, P., & MELVILLE, R. 1961. The contamination of birds with pollen and other substances. *Brit. Birds* 54: 93-100.
BÚRQUEZ, A. 1989. Blue Tits, *Parus caeruleus*, as pollinators of the crown imperial, *Fritillaria imperialis*, in Britain. *Oikos* 55: 335-340.
ENGLAND, M. D. 1969. Birds taking nectar. *Brit. Birds* 62: 288-289.
FORD, H. A. 1985. Nectarivory and pollination by birds in southern Australia and Europe. *Oikos* 44: 127-131.
KAY, Q. O. N. 1985. Nectar from willow catkins as a food source for blue tits. *Bird Study* 32: 40-44.
SOPER, E. A. 1969. Birds taking honey. *Brit. Birds* 62: 200-201.
VISIK, P. 1977. Blue Tits taking nectar. *Brit. Birds* 70: 548-549.

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Nightjars and Corn Buntings The year 1992 will be busy for BTO members.

In the 'Nightjar Survey', initial work in 1991 by volunteers and paid teams in selected centres found far more Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* than expected, in spite of bad weather. In the New Forest, for instance, 300 churring males were found. We can hardly wait to see whether these trends are reflected in the national picture in 1992. If you would like to help in 1992, it is not too late to volunteer: just write to me.

The 'Corn Bunting Survey' will take place during the summers of 1992 and 1993, with some work at least during winter 1992/93. The survey will be organised by Dr Andy Evans at the BTO. Corn Buntings *Miliaria calandra* have suffered a reduction of 40% in their range in the last 20 years, a very serious contraction. Since Corn Buntings are associated with agricultural land, we need to collect habitat data in order to relate bird distribution to land use and then construct a model of their decline. It is possible that the Corn Bunting could be used as an indicator of the state of agriculture and that its population fluctuations could have implications for other species.

PAUL GREEN
BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

ICBP news

Progress in Malta? On a recent visit to Malta, ICBP Migratory Birds Officer Tobias Salathé witnessed the extent of the illegal shooting that occurs on the island. At Buskett Gardens, for example, the major pine forest of the Maltese islands and an attractive night roost for migrating raptors, Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus* and Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* were all being shot. Although all birds of prey are legally protected and Buskett Gardens is a non-hunting area, the Secretariat for the Environment seems unable to enforce existing legislation, with too few police trying to control the 8% of the population that indulges in the pastimes of bird killing and trapping.

After the publication of an article in *BBC Wildlife* magazine (May 1991), however, publicising the extent of bird killing and trapping in Malta, and with the launch in Malta on 20th September of a public-awareness campaign for 'A majority against hunting' by the Democratic Alternative (an opposition political party), the movement for the introduction of standard European hunting regulations, and their enforcement in Malta (which has applied to join the EC), may gain momentum. Increasingly, European tourists visiting the Maltese islands are complaining to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Tourism about the hunters. Since an estimated 40% of the country's income is linked to the tourist industry, the authorities would do well to take these complaints seriously.

In this difficult situation, it is encouraging to note that membership of the Maltese Ornithological Society has just exceeded 2,100, and that the MOS is likely to be working with the Secretariat for the Environment in 1992 on the establishment of a second educational nature reserve in a temporarily flooded area at St-Pauls Bay known as Il-Samir. With support provided by other European ICBP member organisations, the MOS will be able to hire two full-time members of staff to develop its fund-raising and membership recruitment and to increase support of its island-wide network of school delegates and education programmes.

GEORGINA GREEN

International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Announcements

Young Ornithologists of the Year This year's Young Ornithologists' Club competition was sponsored jointly by the *Young Telegraph* and *British Birds*. Competitors were required to submit their field notebooks for perusal by the judges, Brough Girling (*YT*), Peter Holden (YOC), and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (*BB*). The winners were:

JUNIOR SECTION (9 years and under)

1st Kirsty Hughes (9) of Leicester
2nd Michael Benn (9) of London
3rd Tom Fieldsend (8) of Hindolveston, Norfolk

INTERMEDIATE SECTION (10-12 years)

1st Anna Evans (12) of Belfast
2nd Alexander Lees (11) of Grantham, Lincolnshire
3rd Lyndsay Johnston (12) of Inverness

SENIOR SECTION (13 years and over)

1st David Anning (16) of Deal, Kent
2nd Dominick Spracklen (14) of Huntly, Aberdeenshire
3rd Ben Eden-Green (15) of Ware, Hertfordshire

The three winners, David Anning, Anna Evans, and Kirsty Hughes, will receive their prizes at a special ceremony at The Lodge. An additional prize will be given to James Starr (14) of Wedmore, Somerset, in recognition of the high quality of presentation of his entry.

Regular followers of this competition will have recognised several familiar names. Tom Fieldsend was last year's Junior Section winner; Dominick Spracklen was last year's Intermediate Section winner; and David Anning was third in the Senior Section last year. It is always pleasing for the judges to see the continued dedication of previous entrants and to note the progress being made by young ornithologists such as this year's senior winner, David Anning. The winners of all three sections produced notebooks featuring 'real fieldnotes', on bird behaviour as well as identification, and on other wildlife as well as birds.

'The Carl Zeiss Award' This new award, announced last month (*Brit. Birds* 54: 589), aims to encourage the submission of potentially useful photographs to the Rarities Committee, to assist the process of individual record assessment, to increase the available reference material, and for possible publication. The sponsors, *Carl Zeiss—Germany*, are offering an annual prize of Carl Zeiss 10×40 B/GAT Dialyt or 7×42 B/GAT binoculars, and runners-up will receive high-quality sew-on woven badges featuring the Carl Zeiss Award logo.



Bird Photograph of the Year We are delighted that 'Bird Photograph of the Year' is once again sponsored by two long-standing friends of *British Birds*, the publishing firms Christopher Helm and HarperCollins, both very well known for their high-quality natural history books.

Entrants should read the rules carefully (see *Brit. Birds* 84: 36, or write for a copy).

The judging panel will consist of Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Don Smith and Roger Tidman.

Past winners of this competition have been Michael C. Wilkes (1977), Peter Lowes (1978), Dr Edmund C. Fellowes (1979), Don Smith (1980), Richard T. Mills (1981), Dennis Coutts (1982), David M. Cottridge (1983), John Lawton Roberts (1984), C. R. Knights (1985), Alan Moffett (1986), Dr Kevin Carlson (1987), Bob Glover (1988), Hanne Eriksen (1989 & 1990) and Philip Perry (1991).

The 1992 awards (cheque for £100 and engraved salver for the winner, cheques for £40 and £25 for the second and third, and £25-worth of HarperCollins books and £25-worth of Christopher Helm books for each of the top three photographers) will be presented at a Press Reception in London in May or June. The runners-up will be welcome to attend the award presentation.

The closing date for entries is 31st January 1992. Transparencies should be clearly marked 'Bird Photograph of the Year' and sent to Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Bird Illustrator of the Year We are delighted that this year's competition will again be sponsored by *Kowa* telescopes.

Kowa
telescopes

Amateur and professional artists are invited to submit four line-drawings for this competition. Entrants should read the rules very carefully (see *Brit. Birds* 84: 36-37, or write for a copy), especially in relation to the exact sizes required.

The judging panel will consist of Robert Gillmor, Alan Harris, Keith Shackleton and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock.

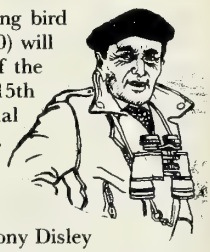
The winner will receive £100, a *Kowa* TSN-3 20-60× zoom telescope and an inscribed salver; the second-placed artist £40 and a TSN-1 20× W *Kowa* telescope; and the third-placed artist £25 and a TS-601 20× W *Kowa* telescope (all three telescopes with cases). All three artists will also be invited to attend the award presentation at a Press Reception at The Mall Galleries in London, where a selection of the drawings will be on display. All artists whose work is displayed will also be welcome to attend the reception, which in previous years has provided a very happy occasion for meeting many of our top bird artists. The winners' entries will also be displayed in the annual exhibition of the Society of Wildlife Artists at The Mall Galleries.

Previous winners have been Crispin Fisher (1979), Norman Arlott (1980 & 1981), Alan Harris (1982), Martin Woodcock (1983), Bruce Pearson (1984), Ian Lewington (1985), Chris

Rose (1986), David Quinn (1987), Martin Hallam (1988), John Cox (1989), Gordon Trunkfield (1990) and John Davis (1991).

The closing date will be 15th March 1992; entries should be sent to 'Bird Illustrator of the Year', Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

The PJC Award A handsome trophy, the PJC Award, is presented annually, in memory of the late Pauline Jean Cook, to the artist whose single drawing submitted for the 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' competition is selected by the judges for its individual merit. The holder of the PJC Award also receives an inscribed book as a permanent symbol of the achievement. The current holder is Dafila Scott (*Brit. Birds* 80: 250-251; 83: 255-261; 84: 298-307).



The Richard Richardson Award To encourage young, up-and-coming bird artists, a special award (a cheque and a book to the total value of £60) will be presented for the best work submitted for the 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' competition (see above) by an artist aged under 21 years on 15th March 1992. The winner's entries will be displayed in the annual exhibition of the Society of Wildlife Artists at The Mall Galleries. Previous winners have been Alan F. Johnston (1979), Andrew Stock (1980), Darren Rees (1981), Keith Colcombe (1982 & 1984), Gary Wright (1983), Ian Lewington (1985), Timothy Hinley (1986), Andrew Birch (1987), John Cox (1988), Stephen Message (1989), Antony Disley (1990) and Andrew Birch & Peter Leonard (1991). This award is in memory of the famous Norfolk ornithologist and bird-artist, the late R. A. Richardson. The rules for entry are exactly the same as for 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and entries by persons under 21 will automatically be considered for both awards.

Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs The closing date for submission of prints for the thirty-second annual selection is 31st January 1992. Photographers may submit as many black-and-white prints as they wish.

The following details should be written on the back of each print: photographer's name and address, species, county (or country, if taken abroad), month, year, and technical details, such as make and size of camera, make and focal length of lens, type of film material, exposure and approximate distance from the subject. Prints will be retained in the editorial office as part of the reference collection and for possible use in the journal unless a request for return is noted on the back of each print and a suitable stamped addressed envelope is supplied.

Entries should be addressed to 'Best recent work', Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Latest rarity decisions Details of the latest records accepted by the Rarities Committee are updated twice weekly by Peter Lansdown on the BBRC Newsline, 0898-884-522. (The Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.)

Send in your 1991 records now If you have not already done so, now is the time to submit all your relevant 1991 records. The names and addresses of the County/Regional Recorders are listed on pages 28-30.

Front-cover designs for sale. The original unframed drawings of the pictures on the front cover of *BB* are for sale each month in a postal auction. The pictures are usually 1½ or two times the published size. These sales help not only the artists, but also *BB*, since the artists donate 20% to the journal. It is also a way for *BB* readers to acquire—for themselves or as a present for a friend—top-class art at very reasonable prices. During the past year, successful postal bids have ranged from £59 to £226; the average has been £118. Why not send in your bid each month? If you are successful (if your bid is the highest, and it exceeds the artist's reserve price) you will be asked to pay the sum you bid, plus £1.50 for postage and packing. Send your name, address and telephone number and your bid (no money at this stage), to arrive before the last day of the month, to Cover Bid, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Photographs and drawings may be for sale Many of the photographers and artists whose pictures appear in *British Birds* welcome the opportunity to sell their work. Anyone who wishes to obtain either photographic prints or original drawings is welcome to write (making an enquiry about availability, making an appropriate offer, or seeking the price) to the photographer or artist concerned, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. We will forward all such letters, as a service to our readers and contributors.

Free subscriptions for County/Regional Recorders We are pleased, once again, to be able to offer free subscriptions to the County/Regional Recorders, as our way of saying 'Thank you' to them for the hard work which they contribute to British ornithology in their 'free time'.

Free advertising for subscribers For a limited period, individual personal subscribers may use the classified advertising pages FREE OF CHARGE for advertisements selling single ornithological items (a pair of binoculars, a telescope, a book, a volume of magazines, etc.). Send your advertisement (not more than 30 words), *quoting your personal BB Reference Number*, to Free BB advertising, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB' Please order all your bird books by using the British BirdShop order forms which are included in *BB* each month (pages xiii & xiv, between pages 40 and 41, this month). All the profits received by *BB* go directly towards funding extra pages, extra photographs and the use of colour illustrations within *BB* itself. By using the POST FREE service provided by British BirdShop, you not only receive the quickest and most efficient mail-order bird-book service, but also help to improve the contents of *BB*, and hold down the subscription price, to everyone's benefit. Thank you for supporting us.

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Bub *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding*
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys*
*Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World*
*Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher*
*Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver*

These include one new SPECIAL OFFER:

*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys*, formerly difficult to obtain and costing £25.00 is now available at £10.00.

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xiii & xiv, between pages 40 and 41 in this issue.

Requests

'Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World' Corrections are required, for a forthcoming revision of the book by Charles Sibley and Burt Monroe (1990) scheduled for spring 1992. It is requested that all suggested changes, including those where ranges are incomplete or in error, be submitted before 1st March 1992. Please also note any errata or literals as these will be corrected as well; especially important are those that affect nomenclature. If taxonomic treatments (including sequences of species) are felt to be in error, please also submit these, preferably with a rationale for the change and a publication citation, if available. Opinions on English-name usage should also be sent; these will be incorporated into discussions by the committee of the IOC dealing with the English name issue (which will report to the Vienna congress in 1994). Please send all information directly to Burt L. Monroe Jr, PO Box 23447, Anchorage, Kentucky, USA; Fax 502-588-0725.

Rare breeding birds Observers with any outstanding information on rare breeding birds in Britain in 1991 are requested to send full details *now* to the relevant county bird recorder (see pages 28-30) or to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel's Secretary, Robert Spencer, Iredale Place Cottage, Loweswater, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0SU.

Moroccan bird records and photographs The Groupe d'Ornithologie du Maroc Central requests that visiting birders submit details of their observations and send copies of photographs and transparencies. This newly formed club also requests copies of any notes or papers on Moroccan birds which visitors to Morocco may have published elsewhere, so that it can establish a reference library for its members. The Groupe has just published the latest issue of its journal *Porphyrio* (volume 3, numbers 1 & 2 combined). Please write to Jacques Franchimont, Président du GOMaC, Département de Biologie, Faculté des Sciences, B.P. 4010 Beni-M'hamed, Meknès, Morocco.

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Illegal hunting in Italy We have recently received some interesting information from Beverly Lewis, a reader who lives in Bruxelles, concerning European Parliament questions and answer on the subject of poaching in southern Italy and elsewhere. The two questions, both apparently written by Italian MEPs, press the Commission for more action to ensure an end to the illegal poaching of birds of prey and other protected species in the provinces of southern Italy adjoining the Strait of Messina. Both questions are worded very strongly, but the answer is somewhat tamer. It does, however, indicate that the Commission is planning to make a financial contribution to a project designed to educate hunters about the law. Let us hope that the MEPs continue to monitor this action and apply pressure. They have our backing.

Rutland Water Last October, Rutland Water, Leicestershire, became England's twenty-ninth Special Protection Area for birds and a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. It was already an SSSI, but we welcome this extra protection, a recognition that was certainly overdue. Rutland Water is especially important for wildfowl in winter, with one-fifth of Britain's Gadwalls *Anas strepera* (11% of the northwest European population). English Nature admit to having another 63 sites worthy of Ramsar and/or SPA status. We must hope for more announcements soon, but we would be lucky, as these matters seem to take an age to resolve; the last site was declared in January 1989. It is difficult, though, for ordinary folk to understand why the process does take so long.

Nikon in the Gulf The ICBP has received help from Nikon UK Ltd in the form of 37 EDII Fieldscopes, although we should quickly add that it was the Dutch government which provided the money (but we have little doubt that it was a very special deal). Eight of the Fieldscopes will be going to a team of researchers in the Gulf, where they will be assessing the effect oil spillages have had on bird populations. Other scopes will be going to the Baltic states of the USSR, Romania and Bulgaria amongst others.

Focus your cameras The first International Photographic Competition on the Environment, 'Focus on Your World', is being organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Canon Inc. It is a worldwide competition aimed at heightening international environmental awareness and is open to professional and amateur photographers, with a special category for children. There will be 206 awards, and prizes, including cash and Canon cameras, will total US$147,000 in value. The organisers are looking for entries that depict the

beauty of our planet as well as those which encourage improvements in the control of pollution or help to prevent the destruction of natural resources and other activities which now plague the global environment. So, why not look through all those photos which you have taken recently to see if you have an offering? The closing date for entries is 29th February 1992. Full details and entry forms can be obtained from any Canon camera dealer, or write to UNEP Photographic Competition, Dentsu UK Ltd, Berger House, 36-38 Berkeley Square, London W1X 5DA.

'The Birds of Stronsay' John Holloway has sent us a copy of this new booklet which he has both written and illustrated with over 20 black-and-white vignettes and two colour plates and cover. It is basically a list of all species (over 200) which have occurred in the period from 1987 to 1991, and therefore tends to highlight the rarities. Although all the breeding species are mentioned, it would be nice to hope that a future edition will include more complete information, including censuses, of the breeders. Its 48 pages can be yours for £3.00 plus postage, from John Holloway, Castle, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AS.

Cape Clear report The 21st Cape Clear Bird Observatory report, covering 1989 and 1990, includes not only the standard chronological reports and a systematic list, but also papers on 'A breeding survey of seabirds and other selected species on Cape Clear 1990' by D. R. Bird and 'Seabird movements off Cape Clear Island in winter' by J. F. Dowdall. Compared with previous censuses, there have been dramatic declines in the breeding numbers of Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* and Great Black-backed Gulls *L. marinus*, while Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Razorbill *Alca torda* and Puffin *Fratercula arctica* all look doomed to extinction, with small breeding populations dwindling rapidly (whereas Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* has maintained its numbers and 'is one of the largest concentrations in Ireland'). The number of Choughs *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* has remained steady over the past 30 years, with five or six pairs annually, but Yellowhammers *Emberiza citrinella* continue to decline (35 pairs in 1965, 15 pairs in 1986 and only five in 1990), a trend also apparent elsewhere.

In contrast to the declines of the other two large gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus* is increasing.

Copies of this report are available, price £3.00 (plus p&p outside the Republic), from Ken Preston, The Rennies, Boreenmanna Road, Cork, Ireland.

Heligoland report The first issue of a new annual report, covering the birds of that most famous of migrant-bird islands, Heligoland, has just reached us. It covers the year 1990, and is devoted largely to the traditional systematic list, with detailed records for each species, and a good sprinkling of black-and-white photographs; a complete checklist of birds recorded on Heligoland is appended. Highlights during 1990 included Olive-backed Pipits *Anthus hodgsoni*, Pied Wheatears *Oenanthe pleschanka* and Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*. The photographs include one—likely to be unique—of a Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* sitting in an armchair. The report is available through membership of the Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Helgoland, which costs DM15.00 (or £5.00 in cash, not by cheque) from the OAG Helgoland, WSA, Tonnenhof, D-2192 Helgoland, Germany.

'Birdwatch' Just six years ago, *British Birds* was the only monthly birdwatching magazine in the world. Now, there are three in the UK alone, and others—quarterly or bimonthly or whatever—are sprouting in all directions.

The latest of which we hear is being produced by Solo Publishing Ltd, with Dominic Mitchell—a well-known *BB* name, from his photographs and drawings—as Managing Editor. By the time this appears in print, his first issue should be available for inspection. Dare we wish him good luck? On the assumption that *Birdwatch* will expand rather than duplicate the range of reading material available to birdwatchers, we do so.

There are rumours of at least two other birdwatching magazines due to be launched soon, but we have no details—secrecy, whispers, and plans being 'kept under wraps' are turning birdwatching-magazine publishing into something resembling the motor trade before new models are revealed. Perhaps *BB* should beware of industrial espionage . . .

Back on the subject of the new, bimonthly, subscription-only *Birdwatch* magazine, we hear that the bigwigs at EMAP—the publishing giant which is responsible for

that splendid monthly *Bird Watching*—are none too pleased at the similarity in names. Personally, from our 85-year-old, long-established position of eminence, we'll be watching events with interest as the 'new' magazines all jostle each other in pursuit of your spare cash.

If you want to know more about *Birdwatch*, the address of Solo Publishing is PO Box 1786, London E17 7JG.

Colombian news A postcard from Paul Salaman, sent during the Cambridge Rainforest Expedition to Colombia (*Brit. Birds* 84: 293), tells of three new species for the country, including Ecuadorian Hillstar *Oreotrochilus chimborazo*, which was previously regarded as endemic to Ecuador, and an as-yet-unidentified mystery bird (new to science?): the gilt on the gingerbread of routine survey and census work. 'Best of all', says Paul, 'the locals are very keen for our work and look forward to us returning next summer'.

First 'Euro Bird Week' With rather unfortunate timing for British birders, the first Euro Bird Week, combined with an International Identification Meeting, took place on the Dutch island of Texel during 12th-20th October 1991. There was good participation from most north and mid European countries and North America, which produced a highly successful event for which the *Dutch Birding* team must be congratulated.

Following initial discussions amongst rarities committee members centred upon the workings of various committees, including a review of the situation in the US by Don Roberson, the necessity for a European/West Palearctic Committee, and lengthy discussion of the thorny problem of escapes, there was a series of half-day identification meetings, linked with half days to go out birding. As if in anticipation of later discussions, a Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus humei* appeared for all to see and hear, but other bird highlights were few: a ridiculously tame Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, a 'Siberian' Stonechat *Saxicola torquata maura/stejnegeri*, and a number of Long-tailed Skuas *Stercorarius longicaudus* and Little Auks *Alle alle* during the last days, while Short-toed Treecreepers *Certhia brachydactyla* were present for anyone wishing to swot up on their ID.

The international nature of the identification meetings added greatly to everyone's understanding of the problems involved with such topics as 'large orange-billed terns' *Sterna*, Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, 'Thayer's Gull' *Larus glaucoides thayeri*, American/Pacific Golden Plovers *Pluvialis dominica/P. fulva*, Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* and Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* to name some of the more controversial. Dick Forsman's talks on the large falcons *Falco* and buzzards *Buteo* were most revealing, and on such subjects as Arctic Redpolls *Carduelis hornemanni* and Two-barred Crossbills *Loxia leucoptera* the large number of useful slides developed some new understanding of the subjects. Obviously, further discussions took place over dinner and at the bar, and later proved that 'The return of *feldegg*' (*Motacilla flava feldegg*) may appear on the next meeting's programme.

A series of evening lectures for all the birders on the island was again well attended and most informative and successful. Following an introduction to birding on Texel by Adriaan Dijksen, a 50-slide mystery competition from Lasse Laine, including flying side-on Spoonbill Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, was won by Lars Jonsson, with Per Alström second and Killian Mullarney third. Paul Lehman's acrobatic talk on nominate Iceland, Kumlien's *L. g. kumlieni* and Thayer's Gulls put everyone in the picture on the complex, while some stunning visual images of the USSR were part of the talk by Dr Algirdas Knystautas, with further mouth-watering shots of Far Eastern goodies in the lecture on the Kolyma Delta by Lasse Laine and Lars Jonsson. Dick Forsman's illustrated evening on buzzards (species and subspecies) and Per Alström and Urban Olsson on interesting *Phylloscopus* warblers left some people head-scratching, and the latter's balance sheet of lumping the 'Greenish Warbler complex' *P. trochiloides/P. plumbeitarsus/P. nitidus*, while splitting Pallas's *P. proregulus* into three, one species new for science, will do little for most British listers but reduce their totals. Gunnlaugur Pétursson gave a summary of the Nearctic vagrants reaching Iceland, while Arnoud van den Berg again showed stunning photos from his work in the Persian Gulf, tempered by a more pessimistic view of the damage to migrant bird populations caused by the recent military and related events. The finale of the week was an entertaining view of birding in the USA by Don Roberson. Various European journals were represented at the evening venues, along with the Dutch travel

reports service, a bookshop and, of course, the bar.

A thoroughly enjoyable and informative week was had by all participants. With further thanks to the Dutch organisers, we now all look forward to the next event, in Poland, California, or wherever.

(*Contributed by Graham P. Catley*)

John Andrews After 21 years with the RSPB, John Andrews has left to set up as an independent consultant on nature conservation. In recent years, John has led the Society's increasingly important and successful advisory team, but before that he was the prime mover in establishing and developing the Conservation Planning Department. It is in no small way due to his commitment and expertise that the RSPB's voice is listened to, and its views respected, wherever developments threaten birds and habitats. John's flair, his personality and his sense of humour—not to say a certain sartorial elegance—will be missed at the RSPB, but it is good to know that he is remaining 'in the field'. We wish him well.

BIY '91 Over 150 artists, guests and members of the Press attended when last year's Bird Illustrator of the Year winners received their prizes, including *Kowa* telescopes, at the traditional Reception at The Mall Galleries, London, on 1st August 1991 (plates 14 & 15). We are delighted that in 1992 the competition will again be sponsored by *Kowa* telescopes. The closing date for this year's entries is 15th March 1992 (see Announcement on pages 45-46).



15. John Davis, winner of the title Bird Illustrator of the Year 1991, receiving his *Kowa* TSN3 telescope from Mr Y. Koyama of *Kowa*, London, August 1991 (*Steve Hickey*)

14. Bird Illustrator of the Year 1991. Left to right: Keith Shackleton (judge), Mr Y. Koyama (*Kowa*), Alan Harris and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (judges), Richard Tilt (*Pyser*), Andrew Shaw (3rd BIY), Andrew Birch (Richard Richardson Award joint winner), John Davis (winner BIY), Andrew Hutchinson (2nd BIY), Peter M. Leonard (RRA joint winner), Dafila Scott (PJC Award winner), Robert Gillmor (judge), Bruce Pearson and Jane Knight (presenters), David A. Cook, and Mr J. Nishi (*Kowa*), London, August 1991 (*Steve Hickey*)



Changes at Minsmere After 16 years as warden at the RSPB's Minsmere reserve, Jeremy Sorensen has left (to become a Jehovah's Witness minister).

The new warden at Minsmere is Geoff Welch, previously warden at the Fairburn Ings (North Yorkshire) and Nene Washes (Cambridgeshire) RSPB reserves.

Ukrainian trips The ornithological society in the Ukraine is planning to organise short-duration excursions for birdwatchers from abroad, to interesting places such as the Carpathian Mountains and local lakes and wetlands. Anyone interested should contact Igor Gorbań, L'vov 290005-SU, Grushewski St 4, L'vov University, Department of Biology, Ukraine.

If you're in Florida in April/May Trips to the Dry Tortugas can be very expensive, but pelagic seabirds and the likelihood of huge falls of migrants on almost-treeless islands make the area exceedingly attractive to birders. The bird-tour company *Wings* is running eight three-day trips there, with departures between 12th April and 4th May 1992. It is prepared to supply transport for campers, as well as those staying on the boats, so trips can be made 'on the cheap'. If you are interested in getting details, write to Wings Inc., PO Box 31930, Tucson, Arizona 85751, USA; phone 602-749-1967; Fax. 602-749-3175.

'BB' Fax—thanks No sooner had the *BB* Editorial Board decided that a Fax machine was a luxury beyond *BB*'s means than Conservation Concepts Ltd (the chaps behind Twitch-line and the other National Bird News phone-lines) offered to supply one free to *BB*.

It is now installed (our Fax number is 0767-40025), and has been much in use. Many thanks, NBN!

Overheard Salesperson at optical stand at the Birdwatching Fair: '*What is an Ittie?*'

It was then gently explained that there were no 'Common Itties', just 'Rare Itties', which twitchers found of especial interest. Comprehension dawned with a pink flush.

Change of Recorder for Jersey A. R. Paintin, 16 Quennevais Gardens, St Brelade, Jersey JE3 8FQ, has taken over from Trevor Copp as Recorder for Jersey.

New County Recorders Andrew Jayne has taken over from Gordon R. Avery as County Recorder for Gloucestershire. J. P. Day has taken over from Peter Hill as County Recorder for Greater Manchester. Philip Murphy has taken over from R. B. Warren as County Recorder for Suffolk (but 1991 records should still be sent to R. B. Warren, at 37 Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9HW). Paul N. Collin has taken over from Donald Watson as County Recorder for Dumfries & Galloway (Stewartry & Wigtown). For the new addresses, see pages 28-30.

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 8th November to 19th December 1991
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* Male, Oxford Island (Co. Armagh), to at least 15th December. **Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolus* White-phase, Lough Akeragh (Co. Kerry), 16th-17th November; Sandwich Bay (Kent), 24th November. **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* First-winter or second-winter, Lough Ennell (Co. Westmeath), at least 12th-23rd November (apparently untagged). **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* Broughton (Buckinghamshire) and Cranfield (Bedfordshire), 13th November to 2nd December. **Pacific Golden Plover** *P. fulva* Cley (Norfolk), 3rd-6th December. **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* St Andrews (Fife), 8th-10th November. **Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* Up to 50 in November and 26 in December, mainly along British east coast. **Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* Small invasion from mid November, with most in Scotland and northeast England, including 220 at Edinburgh (Lothian) and 200 at Sunderland (Tyne & Wear). **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* Near Dover (Kent), 24th November; Guernsey (Channel Islands), 24th-28th November. **Mugimaki Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki* Stone Creek (Humberside), 16th-17th November.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Twitchline' on 0898-884-501
(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to National Bird News for supplying information for this news feature.

Classified Advertisements
All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates
(including 17½% VAT)
£2.94 a line—average of 6 words
£9.98 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

Series Discounts
3 insertions for the price of 2
6 insertions for the price of 4

Copy Date
February Issue
January 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds
is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm and HarperCollins — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

British Birds

has over 10,000 subscribers: a total of around 40,000 readers in 63 countries, and 99.6% of them keep their copies of 'BB' permanently, for future reference.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

LAKE DISTRICT – RYDAL. Two cottages, sleep 6 each, weekly lets. Fisher Hoggarth, 52 Kirkland, Kendal. Tel: 0539 722592 in office hours. (BB609)

YORKSHIRE DALES (GRASSINGTON). BB & EM. Eileen & Allan invite you to share their idyllic 17c. riverside cottage. Private fishing. (Birdwatching courses.) Brochure (0756) 752463. (BB607)

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB530)

ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB855)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB793)

BIRDWATCHERS travel many miles in the pursuit of their hobby. Over half of British Birds subscribers use hotel or guest house accommodation. Phone 0621 815085 for advertising details. (BB681)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB766)

COUNTRY COTTAGES at Ellingham between Alnwick and Belford, sleep 6. Fully equipped, self-catering, available Easter to October. Well placed for Holy Island, Farne Islands, Cheviot Hills and many places of natural beauty. S.A.E., Lady Gadsden, 606 Gilbert House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BD. (BB935)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB858)

WEYMOUTH, Birchfields Licensed Guest House, close to RSPB reserves. BB from £14. Evening meal optional. Ideal winter/spring breaks. Parties welcome. For details phone 0305 773255. (BB969)

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
5 crowns commended
Cley 5 miles. Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390



(BB963)

N. W. NORFOLK COAST – Snettisham. Two warm and pretty cottages (Tourist Board 'Commended' – 4 key). Sleeps 4. Ideally situated close to major bird reserves. Averil Campbell. Tel. 0485 541179. (BB938)

WAREN HOUSE HOTEL
RAC AA
★★★ HIGHLY COMMENDED ★★
Beautiful traditional country house hotel. 6 acres wooded grounds at Budle Bay Bird Sanctuary. 5 miles from Farne Islands and Holy Island. Peace and tranquility assured. No children or pets. All rooms No Smoking except Library.
WAREN MILL, BELFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND NE70 7EE.
Tel: Bamburgh (06684) 581 (BB900)

WELLS, NORFOLK. 'The Cobblers' Guest House. Central heating, H&C, tea and coffee facilities and TVs in all rooms. Tel: (0328) 710155/711092. (BB981)

SLAPTON— Well equipped, self-contained wing/bungalow in 1/2 acre. Sleeps 4-6. Seaview. Beautiful beaches. Nature reserve. Dartmouth 7 miles. Pets welcome. From £110. Tel: (0548) 580952 for brochures, SAE 'Hillcrest', Wood Lane, Slapton, Kingsbridge, Devon. (BB030)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB903)

EXMOOR. Peaceful s/catering c/heated holiday homes in National Trust Village. Marshes, woods and moorland—rich in birdlife. Reduced spring/autumn terms. Open all year. Resident Proprietors, Pack Horse, Allerford, nr Minehead. Tel: 0643 862475. (BB026)

GARA MILL. Slapton, Devon. Self-catering for 2-7 in secluded four acres overlooking river and woods. Eight detached cedar lodges plus 2 CH flats in 16th c. cornmill. Near Slapton Ley. TVs. Dogs welcome. Free brochure: (0803) 770295. (BB987)

Churchwood Valley
* Quality Log Cabins
* Conservation Area
* Varied Birds and Wildlife
* Coastal Country Setting
* Estuaries and Moorland
Colour brochure:
11 Churchwood, Wembury Bay, Near Plymouth, Devon PL9 0DZ
Telephone: (0752) 862382 (24 hr)
(BB980)



SCOTLAND

SPEY VALLEY. Maureen and Larry once again invite guests to sample their highland hospitality. Set in five acres, our home has uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. Bird register available. Good home cooking and a warm welcome await you. D/B/B £130 p.w. (All rooms en-suite). Brochure: Maureen Taulbut, "Braes of Duthil', Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3ND. 047984 395. (BB879)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB920)

ALL OVER SCOTLAND. Comfortable cottages and chalets in attractive locations throughout Scotland. Stamp please for free 84-page colour brochure. Holiday Cottages (Scotland) Ltd, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9JD. Tel: 08357 481. (BB936)

STRATHSPEY SELF CATERING. 1 crown to 5 crowns highly commended. Colour brochure from S.S.C., Ballingtomb Cottages, Dulnain Bridge PH26 3LS. Tel. 047 985 322. (BB937)

ISLE OF ISLAY, HEBRIDES. Five superbly equipped cottages, open throughout year. Perfect situation with views, minutes to charming village. Short drive to RSPB reserve at Gruinart. Brochure: Mrs Sarah Roy, Lorgba Holiday Cottage, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll. Tel: 049 685/208. (BB999)

THE STRATHSPEY BIRDING CENTRE. Guest house run by birders for birders. Latest sightings and helpful information, plus daily bird trips. BB&EM. Details from 'Heatherlea', Deshar Road, Boat of Garten, Inverness PH24 3BN or ring 0479 83674. (BB010)

SEE PUFFINS, skuas, seals and a lot more. Private boat takes you among otherwise inaccessible colonies. A nature-lover's dream. Full board in castle, or stay in self-catering cottages. Send for details: Balfour Castle, Shapinsay, Orkney. Tel: 085 671 282. Fax: 0856 5039. (BB970)

ELLARY ESTATE—MOST ATTRACTIVE choice of self-catering cottages and chalets situated on the shores of Loch Caolisport. While you are at Ellary you are free to go wherever you please. There are hill walks, many lochs and burns where you can fish, numerous wildlife, birds, flowers, etc. The perfect location for the true country lover. For full colour brochure please write to: The Booking Office, Ellary 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PA. Tel: 08808 232/209 or 054685 223. (BB983)

ISLAY, GEESE. Warm cottages sleep 8, 7 or 2. Lady Wilson, Cala na Ruadh, Port Charlotte. Tel: 289 (BB943)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £48.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB965)

OSPREY VISITORS to Loch Garten & Abernethy? Locheil GH offers BB: £11.50; DBB: £18.50; or self-cater Cottage (sleeps 6) rental £22 nightly, and Chalet (sleeps 4) £17 nightly. For details +150 birdlist, walks, slide-talks, etc., write: Locheil, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire. Tel: 047 983 603. (BB986)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503.(BB961)

GALLOWAY. Hills, lochs, forests and sea. Speciality, birds of prey and waterfowl. High quality self-catering houses, cottages, flats. Details G. M. Thomson & Co, 27 King Street, Castle Douglas. 0556 2973. (BB964)

WALES

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest-House standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB919)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB009)

OVERSEAS

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB901)

S. E. SPAIN – comfortable house, convenient major wetlands. All mod cons. Sleeps 3/4. Bird list and details. Tel: 0233 628547. (BB021)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

NEW ZEALAND

For the best of NZ birding, write Nature Quest New Zealand. Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand for custom departures or details of self drive consultancy.
Tel: & Fax: (03) 489 8444
(BB031)

GUIDED BIRDWATCHING. Kenya 1st March, one week safari, one week Malindi. Full guidance 1st March £1520. **Eastern Turkey** Two weeks internal flights, transport. Full guidance by I. Green, who is writing book – Birdwatching in Turkey. May £980. **Spanish Pyrenees** One week June 12th £550. Activity Holidays, Tall Trees, Ball Rd, Ryhall, Stamford, Lincs PE9 4NT or answerphone 0780 66280 (state birdwatching). (BB914)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237
100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS
'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)
BEST QUOTES / 1992 GROUP RATES
(BB007)

WILDWINGS
The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers
DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide
Return fares from London from
EUROPE £69
M. EAST £139
CARIBBEAN £289
C. & S. AMERICA £399
AFRICA £99
N. AMERICA £199
ASIA £299
AUS/NZ £549
SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS
ANTARCTICA & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2795. pp. Brochure & Video available.
Ask for leaflet detailing our services.
0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757 MON. - FRI.
ABTA 65077
(BB002)

PAPA WESTRAY, ORKNEY
An island with superb birdlife, rare plants, seals and archaeology. Europe's largest tern colony.
For information on travel/accommodation:
B.B., Papay Community Co-operative Ltd, Beltane House, Papa Westray, Orkney.
Telephone 08574 267 (BB008)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May – variety of accommodation – trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB877)

Flamingo Holidays
TAKING BIRDWATCHERS TO EUROPE AND BEYOND
SIBERIA • NEPAL • THE GAMBIA
MALLORCA • CAMARGUE
EGYPT • DANUBE DELTA • ICELAND
BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS IN SMALL GROUPS WITH EXPERT LEADERS
FREE BROCHURE, PHONE OR WRITE TO:
0532 586555 (24 Hour)
59 HUNGER HILLS DRIVE, LEEDS LS18 5JU
(BB989)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

OVER HALF of British Birds subscribers travel abroad birdwatching each year, averaging 19 days per trip. To reach this audience, phone 0621 815085 for advertising rates. (BB682)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monteray, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soguel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

SKOKHOLM ISLAND, off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art, Birdwatching, Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Send SAE to Dept BB, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF. Tel: (0437) 765462. (BB032)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA
PHILIP MAHER
INLAND BIRD TOURS
STRZELECKI TRACK TOUR 12-27 Sept. (S.W.-Q'ld; N.W.-N.S.W.; N.E.-S.A.; N.W.-Vic.). Inland endemics, 200+ species including 4 sp Grasswren, grey & black Falcon, Plainswanderer, Inland Dotteral (camping).
SOUTH-EAST AUST. 2-13 Oct. All S.E. endemics, 300+ species including Superd Lyrebird, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Powerful Owl. Pelagic trip. Optional 4-day Tasmanian extension (camping or accommodated).
KAKADU/GULF COUNTRY 1-30 June.
Further information:
PHILIP MAHER, 94 Hunter Street, Deniliquin 2710 N.S.W. Australia
Ph. (058) 813378. (BB979)

ADVENTURES WITH BIRDS

Small-Group Birding

Enjoy Morocco's desert birds (£925), Sweden's Owls (£1045), Israel's wintering raptors (£825), the Danube delta (£895), Egypt (£875) etc.... in groups of 6 or less. Unbeatable value.

For details of these and many other special holidays, contact....

GOSTOURS

29 Marchwood Road Sheffield S6 5LB
Tel: 0742 334171

(BB998)

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

BIRDING CANADA, UNITED STATES, COSTA RICA? For information re site guides, maps etc, write to Dunnock Enterprizes 2409 Speyside Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5K 1X5. (BB033)

BIRD INFORMATION

RARE BIRD NEWS
BIRDLINE
0898 700 222
News you can trust from the team you know
Phone YOUR News in on 0263 741140
NEW. ALL THE NEWS FROM AVON, WILTSHIRE, SOMERSET, DEVON, DORSET, CORNWALL, ISLE OF SCILLY
BIRDLINE SOUTH WEST
0898 700241
CALLS TO ALL 0898 NUMBERS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE, 48p/MIN PEAK/STD, INC VAT. BIRD INFORMATION SERVICE, STONERUNNER, COAST ROAD, CLEY, HOLT, NORFOLK

(BB024)

PHONE-LINES
Latest rare bird news:
0898-884-501
Latest Rarities Committee* decisions:
0898-884-522
(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times)
* The Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss – Germany* (BB931)

ALL THE RARE BIRD NEWS AS SOON AS IT BREAKS!
paged directly to the screen of your pocket pager . . . Nationwide
RARE BIRD ALERT
details TEL: FREE! 0800 246 246

(BB972)

BIRD REPORT

BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA 1990. £3.75p inc. p&p, from Mrs M. Cadwallender, 22 South View, Lesbury, Northumberland NE66 3PZ. (BB899)

'BIRDS IN CORNWALL 1990' available price £4 from Stanley Christophers, 'Bramblings', Rachel's Way, St Columb Major, Cornwall, TR9 6EP. (BB915)

HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1990. 214 pp plus colour plates. Regular features plus many papers inc. 10 first sightings, Status of Oriental White Stork, Penduline Tit 'Invasion', Observations in Yunnan, Liaoning and Qinghai, China, etc. £8.50 inc. p&p from S. Anstruther, Barlavington Estate, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0LG. (BB988)

CAMBS. BIRD REPORT 1990, 90pp, £4 W. Jordan, 61 Lonetree Ave., Impington, Cambs. (BB001)

DERBYSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. Full colour cover plus colour photos inside. £4.00 inc p&p from Rodney Key, 3 Farningham Close, Spondon, Derby DE2 7DZ. (BB006)

1989 KENT BIRD REPORT. 17 colour plates. £5 (incl p&p) Steve Davies, 13 Crown Lane, Bromley BR2 9PG. (BB023)

BIRDS OF OXON, 1990 £4 inc p&p, from R. Overall, 30 Hunsdon Road, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4JE. (BB027)

GWENT BIRD REPORT 1990. Many articles, £3.35 from Jerry Lewis, Y Bwthyn Gwyn, Coldbrook, Abergavenny, Gwent. Also past reports, Birds of Gwent and Breeding Atlas available. (BB982)

HERTFORDSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. £4.50 inc p&p from B. Taggart, 2 Yewtree Cottages, Colliers End, Ware, Herts SG11 1EQ. (BB022)

SITUATIONS VACANT

GIBRALTAR POINT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE. Contract assistant warden required for one year, April 1992 to March 1993 with responsibility for shorebird protection, £60 per week and full board. Also, shorebird warden at Donna Nook, £85 per week. Tel: 0754 762677 for details and application form. (BB984)

GIBRALTAR POINT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE. Voluntary shorebird assistant required for June & July 1992. Food and accommodation provided. Tel: 0754 762677 for details and application form. (BB985)

BOOKS

BOOKS ON BIRDS, MAMMALS, ETC., BOUGHT & SOLD. Also Field Sports, Big Game, Travel, Science, the Arts, etc. Catalogues issued. David Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3JP. 09315 282. (BB613)

BOOKS ON BIRDS. New and secondhand catalogue. 30p stamps. Surplus books urgently sought. BB bought and sold. Viewing by appointment. Grant Demar, Old Forge, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LP. Tel: 0732 810482. (BB004)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

FREE *Mail order catalogue on request*

Tel: 0352 770681
Fax: 0352 771890

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

SUBBUTEO
NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd.North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB868)

MEINERTZHAGEN, RICKMAN, MOREAU and LACK. Rare lines by these and other authors. For catalogue write to: Barn Hill Books, Old Schoolhouse, Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ. Tel: 0770 87368. (BB005)

THE NAT. HIST. OF WALNEY ISLAND by T. Dean. £11.99 post free. Bird books bought/sold. Cat. avail. West Coast Bird Books, 25 Heatherways, Freshfield, Liverpool L37 7HL. Tel: 07048 71115. (BB944)

MOROCCO. A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO MOROCCO by P. & F. Bergier. £8.75. Prion Ltd (Perry). Vital for travellers to Morocco. From bookshops or NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon. Tel: (0803) 865913. (BB020)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407
(BB977)

THE AVERAGE British Birds reader will spend over £100 on bird books yearly. They could be buying your books. To advertise, 'phone 0621-815085. (BB683)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB917)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:
Coxton Publications,
Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington,
Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP

(BB913)

VIDEOS

LATEST RARE BIRD VIDEO
The very best, high-tech, moving pictures of most recent rarities (1990/91). Commentary and index. Satisfaction, or money refunded. £20, from Alan Shaw, Holmfields, Breach Lane, Melbourne, Derby. DE7 1DF. Send SAE for list, or telephone 0332 862075 for details. (BB916)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Individual BB subscribers can advertise here FREE (up to 30 words, selling a single item, e.g. binocular, book, set of journals). Quote your BB Ref. No. and address envelope to 'Free BB Advertising'. (BB753)

BRITISH BIRDS SUBSCRIBERS spend between £300 and £1,000 a year on bird-watching equipment. They could be buying your equipment. To advertise, phone 0621 815085. (BB684)

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB921)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £10
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845

(BB902)

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK LEVENE. Many British rarities including all Scilly birds in 1991, also prints and slides of Birds of the USA and Canada, Israel, Spain, Hong Kong etc. 6 x 4 prints £1.50 plus 30p post and packing. Please send a SAE for a catalogue.

Jack Levene, 6 Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6SJ. Phone 0206 298345. (BB003)

BRITISH BIRDS Vol 73–79 inclusive. Unbound. Offers to Tel: 0222 626919. (BB025)

Please mention BRITISH BIRDS when replying to advertisements

VARIOUS MAGAZINES - British Wildlife, British Birds, Birding World, Birds (RSPB), Bird Study, BTO Wildfowl/Wader Counts. Also books. Phone 0202 722014 after 6 pm for details. (BB018)

BANNERMAN – History of Birds of Cape Verde Islands (1968), fine in bw. £79 inc p&p. Tel: 0483 766517 after 7 pm. (BB019)

TRIPOD TAMER 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. post from: Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB960)

NICKEL SUPRA ZOOM TELESCOPE, 20-60x, £45 with case. Zeiss Notarem 10 x 40 binoculars, £55; both excellent condition. 051-342 2815. (BB926)

BRITISH BIRDS Vols. 71-84, i.e. from 1978 to 1991, complete, excellent cond., in binders and with indexes, £150. Phone 0689 (Orpington) 826301. (BB990)

ROSS STEPRUVA 9 x 35 (original) binoculars, offers. Leitz 8 x 20B binoculars, £79. Phone B. Wright 0472 750970. (BB991)

BRITISH BIRDS Vol. 71-Vol. 82 (1978-1989). Unbound, in excellent condition; offers. Tel: 061-330 2607. (BB992)

LINE DRAWINGS by Alan Harris from Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland, by Dymond, Fraser and Gantlett. £20. For details tel. 0279 424307. (BB993)

POYSER — Natural History of Cape Clear Island, any offers? Tel: 0235 535720. (BB994)

ROSS 7 x 50 Steplux binoculars, recently overhauled, collectors item, any offers? Tel: 0235 535720. (BB995)

BANNERMAN'S BRITISH BIRDS: With dust-jackets £285, without £215. P&P extra but can deliver Norfolk-Suffolk. Tel: 0379-651958. (BB996)

OPTOLYTH ALPIN 10 x 40 binoculars, very good condition. £150 o.n.o. Tel: 0686 628637. (BB997)

BARGAIN BUY. Optics, excellent, Bushnell Spacemaster well used! Complete with Kowa 27x and 20x eyepieces and Slik Master tripod. £125. BWP Vol. 1-3 inclusive £140. C. P. Catley. Tel: 0652 34752. (BB012)

BRITISH BIRDS 1979-81, £12 per year + p&p. Tel: (0703) 464641. (BB013)

10 x 50 JENOPTEM BINOCULARS, including case. As new £50 ono. Tel: 0924 275603. (BB014)

BIRDWATCHING IN CRETE (2nd ed.) £3.75 inc p&p, Stephanie Coghlan, 25 Thorpe Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, W Yorks HD5 8TA. (BB015)

BWP, Vols 1-5, mint condition, £220. The Birds of Africa, Vol 1-3, mint condition, £140. Ring anytime 081-393 6608. (BB016)

GOODERS (Ed.): Birds of the World, 9 vols, Encyclopaedia of Birds, 7 vols, all in binders. Collect Esher. Offers: 081-644 8499. (BB017)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 1 January 1992

1 Editorial

2 **Conservation: the Prime Minister's personal views** *Rt Hon. John Major MP*

5 Seventy-five years ago . . .

6 **European news**

16 **Influx of Little Egrets in Britain and Ireland in 1989** *Pete Combridge and Chris Parr*

21 **Identification pitfalls and assessment problems** *11* Little Egret *R. A. Hume*

25 **Mystery photographs** *174* Chiffchaff *A. R. Dean*

28 **County, regional and bird observatory recorders in Britain and Ireland**

31 **Monthly marathon**

Reviews

32 'Bird Trapping and Bird Banding' by Hans Bub *Stephen Rumsey*
32 'Birds' by Rob Hume *Joan Childs*
33 'Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion' vol. 6, part 1 edited by V. D. Il'ičev & V. A. Zubakin *David A. Christie*

Notes

34 Little Grebes sunning in winter *S. W. M. Hughes*
34 Immature Little Grebe attacking Black-headed Gull *A. J. Morris*
35 Concealing posture of Mallard *A. A. Cooper*
35 Feeding groups of Common Scoters containing other species *R. C. Dickson*
36 Aerial prey-capture technique of Little Gull *P. I. Morris*
36 Herring Gull using wind shear over land *Norman Elkins*
37 Breeding-range changes of Red-rumped Swallow in Yugoslavia *Mauricio Stipčević and Gordan Lukač*
40 Great Spotted Woodpecker apparently feeding on nectar *D. Lester*
41 Blue Tits as pollinators of the crown imperial *Dr Alberto Búrquez*

43 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

44 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

Announcements

44 Young Ornithologists of the Year
45 'The Carl Zeiss Award'
45 Bird Photograph of the Year
45 Bird Illustrator of the Year
46 The PJC Award
46 The Richard Richardson Award
46 Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs
46 Latest rarity decisions
46 Send in your 1991 records now
46 Front-cover designs for sale
47 Photographs and drawings may be for sale
47 Free subscriptions for County/Regional Recorders
47 Free advertising for subscribers
47 'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB'
47 Books in British BirdShop

Requests

47 'Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World' *Dr Burt L. Monroe Jr*
48 Rare breeding birds *Robert Spencer*
48 Moroccan bird records and photographs *Jacques Franchimont*

48 **News and comment** *Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett*

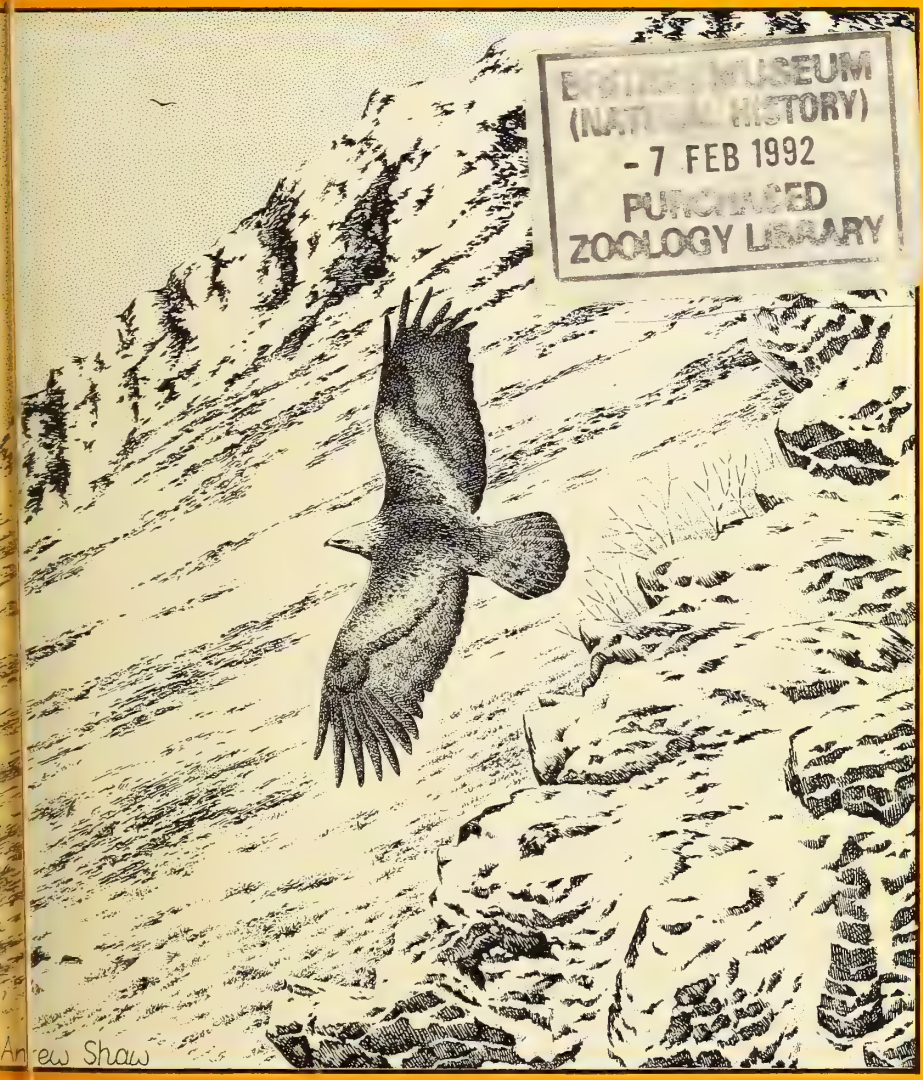
52 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 16 Cormorants and Little Egret (*Thelma K. Sykes*); 18 and 19 Little Egrets (*Chris Parr*)

Front cover: Pintails courting in the Rushy Pen at Slimbridge, February 1991 (*Dafila Scott*): original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 for procedure)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 2 February 1992



The new DNA-DNA avian classification
Identification of Lanceolated Warbler

Reviews · Mystery photographs · Notes · Letters
News and comment · Monthly marathon · Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, A. R. Dean, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume & J. H. Marchant; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984): names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford

204 HIGH STREET
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 081-449 1445
PHONE 081-441 7748
FAX: 081-440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

WINTER FIELD EVENT PROGRAMME

The ideal way to test optics for birdwatching is to watch birds! Our field events at well known Reserves countrywide will enable customers to test and select from our complete range of equipment. Information packs are available on all events – please apply in writing or by phone. Two day events are usually run on an appointment basis and preference will be given to those with an advanced booking. All events open between 10 am - 4 pm daily

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1991

ADUR ESTUARY SHOREHAM SAT 21st & SUN 22nd MARCH	GRAFHAM WATER CAMBS. SAT 1st & SUN 2nd FEB.	LEMSFORD SPRINGS HERTS. SUN 9th FEB & SUN 8th MARCH	BLACKTOFT SANDS HUMBERSIDE SAT 15th & SUN 16th FEB.
CHEW VALLEY AVON SAT 22nd & SUN 23rd FEB.	DUNGENESS KENT SAT 29th FEB. & SUN 1st MARCH	HAUXLEY NORTHUMBERLAND SAT 14th & SUN 15th MARCH	LODMOOR DORSET SAT 28th & SUN 29th MARCH

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK
AT BRIARFIELDS HOTEL, TITCHWELL
When new goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased
Phone for details

BAUSCH & LOMB £
Elite 8x42BGA....629.00
Elite 10x42BGA....629.00
Custom 8x36B....229.00
Custom 10x40BGA....249.00
Legacy 8x24....89.00
Elite 22x60B....289.00
Elite 22x60BGA....309.00
Elite 15x-45x60BGA....349.00

LEICA £
Trinovid 8x20BC....199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC....226.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA....226.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA....239.00
Case for Mini....15.00
Trinovid 7x42BA....628.00
Trinovid 8x42BA....628.00
Trinovid 10x42BA....628.00

CARL ZEISS £
Designer 8x20BT*P....295.00
Designer 10x25BT*P....319.00
Dialyt 8x20B....236.00
Dialyt 10x25B....259.00
Dialyt 8x20BGA....305.00
Dialyt 8x30BGAT....509.00
Dialyt 7x42BGAT....589.00
Dialyt 10x40BGAT....599.00
Dialyt 10x40BT....639.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT....729.00
15x60 Porro GAT....1190.00
Accessories:
Rainguard....8.00
Eye Cups (Set)....16.00
Eye Cups Hard (Set)....16.00
Lanyard....5.00
Wide Lanyard....15.00
Spare Case from....19.00

NIKON £
7x20CFIII....69.00
9x25CFIII....79.00
8x23CFIII....85.00
10x25CFII....89.00
8x20DCF....135.00
10x25DCF....150.00
9x30DCF....249.00
12x36DCF....279.00
8x40DCF....539.00
7x35E....199.00
8x30E....229.99
10x35E....249.00
6x-12x24DCF....329.00
Fieldscope II 20x60....304.00
Fieldscope II 20x-45x....379.00
Fieldscope ED II 20x60....555.00
20x-45x60....629.00
15x & 20x....65.00
30x & 40x....65.00
60x....65.00
20x-45x Zoom....147.00
Hoya Multi Coat Filter....20.00
Rubber Hood....10.00
Photo Kit....168.00
Stay-on Case....45.00
Spotting scope 20x60GA....199.00
15x-45x60GA....265.00
20x....34.95
15-45x Zoom....100.00

SWIFT £
County 10x40....89.00
Triton 10x50....99.00
Trilyte 7x42BGA....132.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA....135.00
Trilyte 10x42BGA....139.00
Audubon HRS....199.00
Audubon 7x35BGA....329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body....149.00
15-45x Zoom....49.00
20x....20.00
Case....15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3" Broad
Band Coating. Supplied with:
50x-80x Hood, Case....2200.00
30x-50x....120.00
80x-130x....120.00
Erector Prism....289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA....227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA....257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA....246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA....249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA....268.00
Touring 8x32BGA....395.00
Touring 7x42BGA....445.00
Touring 10x40BGA....445.00
TBS HD Body....549.00
TBG HD Body....549.00
TBS Body....358.00
TBG Body....358.00
20x WA....122.00
30x WA....77.00
30x WW....135.00
40x WA....77.00
22x-60x Zoom....159.00
Soft Case....29.00
Hard Case....35.00
Stay-on Case for TGS/TBG....45.00

KOWA £
TS-601....179.00
TS-602....179.00
20xWA....55.00
25xWA....48.00
20x-60x Zoom....99.00
Case....19.95
TSN-1....295.00
TSN-2....295.00
TSN-3....555.00
TSN-4....555.00
20x-60x Zoom....139.00
20xWA....96.00
25x....63.00
30xWA....119.00
40x....63.00
60x....96.00
77x....99.00
Skua Case....39.95
Rear Dust Dome....15.00
Spare O.G. Cover....6.00
27xWA (Screw Fit)....59.00
Screw/Bay Adaptor....20.00
Case for TSN....24.95
Photo Adaptor 800mm....107.00
Photo Adaptor 1200mm....179.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30....44.00
Vega II 8x40....49.00
HR 8x32MC....142.00
HR 7x42MC....146.00
HR 8x42MC....148.00
HR 10x42MC....153.00
HR 10x50 MC....171.00
HR Body 80mm....255.00
30xWA....32.00
27x-80x Zoom....78.00
HR Body, 22x & Case....164.95
HR GA, 22x & Case....174.95
HR 45°, 22x & Case....204.95
HR Body, 20x-60x & Case....204.95
HR GA, 20x-60x & Case....214.95
HR 45°, 20x-60x & Case....234.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA....32.00
Classic IF60....110.00
18xWA....24.00
25x....24.00
25x HP....27.00
18x-40x Zoom....61.00
Classic IF 75mm....140.00
22xWA....24.00
30x....27.00
22x-47x Zoom....61.00
Piccolo....128.00
Eyepieces from....29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60....355.00
Piccolo ED 20x-60x60....399.00
Photo Kits....from 30.00
Cases for Scopes....15.00
Macro Monocular....50.00

MIRADOR £
8x32B....110.00
7x42B....112.00
8x42B....113.00
10x42B....115.00
10x50B....127.00
Merlin 60mmx25....109.00
Merlin 18x-40x60....139.00
Merlin 75mmx30....129.00
Merlin 22x-47x75....169.00
Case for Merlin....15.00

REDFIELD £
7x35BA....199.00
10x50BA....249.00
20-45x60GA....299.95

PENTAX £
8x40PCF....99.95
10x50PCF....104.95
12x50PCF....109.95

BRESSER £
Action 8x40....69.00
Action 10x50....79.00
Linear 8x42....119.00
Linear 10x42....124.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B....139.95
Hanover 10x42B....149.95
Regent 8x42B....169.95
Kensington 10x42B....179.95

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS
Opticron 20x80....390.00
Opticron 30x80....395.00

HABICHT £
10x40 Diana....372.00
7x30SLC....353.00
8x30 SLC....365.00
8x20B....220.00
AT80 Body....547.00
22xWA....72.00
32xWA....124.00
20x-60x Zoom....164.00
Case....93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body....145.00
Spacemaster Body GA....165.00
15x-45x Zoom....49.00
22xWA....32.00
Case....15.00
Photo kit....30.00

VELBON £
New Fluid Head Tripods
Victory 350....39.95
D-500....59.95
D600....69.95
D700....79.95

CULLMANN £
Hide Clamp....49.95
Shoulder Pod....24.95
Q/R System....9.95
Q/R Plate....4.95

SLIK £
Master D-2....72.95
Master D-3....89.95

MANFROTTO £
055 Base....71.50
055B Base....75.00
190 Base....45.00
190B Base....58.50
144 Base....54.00
144B Base....58.50
128 Head....45.00
200 Head....50.00
Tripod Strap....10.95
Spare Q/R Plate....5.95

ACCESSORIES £
Car Window Mount....22.00
Universal Mount....22.00
Hide Clamp....38.00
Rainguards from....3.50
Pentax Cleaning Cloth....3.95
Pentax Cleaning Kit....3.99
Tripod Strap....6.95
Lanyards....from 4.00
Dust Away....3.95
Double Eyepiece Case....9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case....24.50

Also in stock Binoculars from Fujinon, Ranger, Adlerblick, Minolta etc.

IN FOCUS CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a period of 3 years from purchase. In the event of equipment failing for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. Compare Zeiss with Leitz and Bausch & Lomb, Kowa with Nikon and Optolyth. We are a completely independent company, whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa Cards will be despatched same day.

MAIL ORDER
Just add £2 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance

SECONDHAND
Instruments are always available. Turnover is fast so we do not print a list. Phone for information.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes.

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK) We are 500 yds east of the RSPB Reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster, and we have our own private car parking.

HOW TO FIND US (BARNET) We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

TELESCOPES AND TRIPOD OUTFITS
If you purchase a scope and tripod at the same time we can offer you a very special price!

PHONE FOR A QUOTE

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED Zeiss, Leitz, Kowa and Nikon products Phone or write for details.

VISA

ANNUAL SALE OF DEMONSTRATION EQUIPMENT

KOWA, OPTOLYTH, NIKON, ZEISS, B&L, LEICA, etc. First come first served

E&OE

(D970)

TWICKERS
WORLD
The natural world

Two unique tours researched and accompanied by our naturalist, Tony Pym.

Wildlife of Belize, Costa Rica & Guatemala
20 days from 8 March. Price from £2639.

Polar Bears & Whales (Newfoundland & NWT)
17 days from 8 July. Price from £2980.

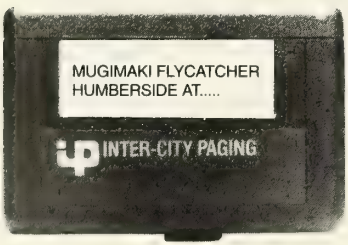
22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW
Telephone 081-892 8164
24 hour brochure service 081-892 7851
Fax 081-892 8061 ABTA No 60340 (D968)





RARE BIRD ALERT

This new bird pager ensures that you get to hear of all British rarities as the news breaks. To find out more and to get an information pack & order form:



- Phone **FREE** 0800 246 246
- or call Dick Filby of the Rare Bird Alert team on 0603 767799
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIP** Get a pager, **NOW!**
- Please phone in sightings of rarities to the Rare Bird Alert **HOTLINE** 0426 952 952. Hotline calls charged at local rates. A donation to conservation for every call.
- £10 donated to RSPB for every pager ordered

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London, N9 OUR.

INTER-CITY PAGING (D950)

(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 7 FEB 1992
PURCHASED
LIBRARY

Kay Optical

Est. 1962

081-648 8822 (24 HR)

FAX: 081-687 2021

1st Floor, 89(B) London Road,
MORDEN, Surrey, SM4 5HP.

OPEN
MON – SAT 9am – 5pm
(Lunch 1–2pm Mon-Fri)

Sales & Servicing of: *BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS*, etc
VIEWING FACILITIES for the best equipment.
COMPETITIVE PRICES. LONG-ESTABLISHED WORKSHOP.
CALLERS WELCOME. PHONE/MAIL ORDER SERVICE.

(Bracket prices while stocks last)

PACKAGE DEALS
Special prices arranged for multi-purchases. We also try to match any genuine offers.

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	259
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	509
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	589
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	599
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	669
BAUSCH & LOMB	
8 x 42 BA Elite	629
10 x 42 BA Elite	629
Custom 8 x 36 B	229
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
22 x 60 B Elite Scope	289
22 x 60 BGA Elite Scope	309
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
SWAROVSKI *	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
10 x 40 Diana	372
AT80 scope (body)	535
22x (WA) eyepiece	70
20–60x zoom eyepiece	160
AT80 case	91
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	226
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	226
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	239
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	628
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	628
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	628
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	239
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	199
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	199
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	229
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	40
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA *	
TSN-1 (45°) body	295
TSN-2 body	295
TSN-3 body	555
TSN-4 body	555
25x or 40x eyepiece	63
20x (WA) eyepiece	96
30x (WA) eyepiece	119
20–60x zoom eyepiece	139
60x eyepiece	96
77x eyepiece	99
Camera adaptor 800mm	107
Camera adaptor 1200mm	179
Kowa case	24
Weathershield case	38
Spare OG cover	5
27x (WA) eyepiece (Screw fit)	59
Eyepiece dust dome	15
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope with zoom EP	199
OPTOLYTH *	
8 x 30 Alpin (205)	227
8 x 40 Alpin (225)	246
10 x 40 Alpin (230)	249
10 x 50 Alpin (241)	268
12 x 50 Alpin (247)	273
7 x 42 Alpin (238)	257
TBG80 telescope body (350)	390
TBS 80 (45°) body (350)	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece (119)	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece (65)	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece (150)	159
TB nylon case (35)	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
15–45x zoom EP	49
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	199
10 x 50 RA roof prism	249
GREENKAT *	£
FFS 7 x 35 Focus Free	69
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
OBSERVATION	
Vixen 20 x 100	750
Vixen 30 x 80	375
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215
MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81
NIGHT VISION	
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	1,790
* Infra-red monocular	225
* Infra-red binocular	300
* Infra-red goggles (mask-mounted)	350
* NOTE: These need infra-red illumination. A searchlight can be supplied for –	100
ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D2	73
Slik SL67	107
Manfrotto 144/200	105
Manfrotto 144/128	100
Manfrotto 190/200	93
Soligor 550	40
Universal clamp	23
Hide clamp II	38
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	50
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps from	7
T-mounts, from	10

★ **SHORT-TERM INTEREST-FREE CREDIT** available on £150 and over (three payments).
★ **REPAIRS** carried out in our own workshops (our policy is to get your optics bird-watch operational with minimal delay).

FREE TRIPOD WORTH £40. (SOLIGOR) with certain * telescopes or pay the extra for different tripod.

★ **FIELD DAYS:** Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. We will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in. ★

★PAGHAM HARBOUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE on the B2145 into Selsey (nr Chichester, W. Sussex) on **SUNDAYS 26th January, 23rd February** and **29th March** (10.00am to 4.00pm approx.)

★WARNHAM NATURE RESERVE just off the A24 (northern roundabout for HORSHAM) on the B2237, on **SUNDAY 9th February** (10.00am to 5.00pm)

★SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST at WOODS MILL, Henfield, W. Sussex, (A2037) on **SUNDAY 8th MARCH** (10.00am to 4.00pm)

★SEVENOAKS WILDFOWL RESERVE, on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball Station, on **SUNDAYS 2nd February, 1st March** and **5th April** (10.00am to 4.00pm)

★BOUGH BEECH NATURE RESERVE/RESERVOIR, about, 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the oast house Information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **SUNDAYS 16th February** and **15th March,** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

Access

We are only 15 minutes' drive from the M25 (e.g. via the A3 and then the Merton Turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
Parking: 1st left past our entrance (50 yds).

VISA

(D967)

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica, one of the top three birding spots worldwide, has more birds than the whole of North America and 10% of the world's species! **Birdwatch Costa Rica** specialise in tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups at affordable rates year-round. **Our advice and assistance based on over 11 years of first-hand experience in Costa Rica.** Write for brochures, checklists, trip itineraries:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 100B SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA
TELEPHONE +506-284768 • FAX +506-281573

(D952)

Topical, lively and informative

BIRDING WORLD



invites you to experience the magic of birds...

Enjoy our unique blend of articles,
tailored to today's birdwatchers; everything from practical identification guides, clear and concise in style and lavishly illustrated,
bird-finding tips, evocative photo-essays,
and gripping accounts of all the current rarities through to
birding hotspots, mouth-watering excursions abroad,
monthly British and Western Palearctic news summaries,
a myriad of special features,
all our regular items including big-prize quizbirds,
and much, much more...

New for 1992, the bigger and even better Birding World is 50% larger, 100% more colour

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (12 issues) UK £
OVERSEAS £31, AIRMAIL outside Europe £
Special introductory off
(6 months trial) UK £12.50, OVERSEAS £15.
Cheque to Birding World (Sterling on
To: **Birding World, Stonerunner, Coast Ro**
Cley, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Postcode Tel.....

THE NEW SLIK D3 SHOULD NOW BE IN STOCK

(latest information) at £89.95.
Limited supplies of D2s are still available.

Do you wish to make night-time observations? Now you can at an affordable price with the new Fujinon PS901 image intensifier from £1600.00 for bright unobtrusive watching of nocturnal wildlife.

The sparrowhawk is becoming as familiar a visitor as the kestrel to our site. Excellent sightings have been enjoyed of his spectacular flight through our conservation area.

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

ZEISS WEST

10x40 BGAT*P	599.00
7x42 BGAT*P	589.00
8x30 BGAT*P	509.00
Design selection 8x20 BT*P	295.00
10x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

Trinovid 8x20 BCA	226.00
Trinovid 10x25 BCA	239.00
7x42 BA	628.00
8x42 BA	628.00
10x42 BA	628.00

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8x40 BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40 BGA	249.00
Touring 10x40	445.00
TBS/G 80 Body	390.00
TBS/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
22x-60x zoom EP	159.00
20x WA	122.00
30xWA	135.00

NIKON

7x20 CF III	69.95
8x30 ECF	229.00
10x35 ECF	249.00
Fieldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
Spotting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

Multicoat 8x42	169.95
Multicoat 10x42	179.95
Multicoat 10x50	198.95

Add £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat

KOWA

TS 601 Body	179.00
TS 602 Body	179.00
20xWA	54.00
25x40x	48.00
20x-60x zoom EP	99.00
Case for 601 and 602	19.95
TSN-1 Body	295.00
TSN-2 Body	295.00
TSN-3 Body	555.00
TSN-4 Body	555.00
20xWA	96.00
30xWA	119.00
25x40x	63.00
20x-60x zoom EP	139.00
Case for TSN 1and2	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	107.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 60mm	102.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25x/30x	24.00
18-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22xWA 25x, 40x	31.00
20-60x zoom EP	66.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22xEP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 8x42 RA	629.00
Elite 10x42 RA	629.00
Elite Telescope 22x60 RA	309.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	159.00
15-45x zoom EP	49.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	199.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	52.00
190 Legs	41.00
055 Legs	73.00
200 Video Head	52.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	14.95
Shoulder Pod	25.95

Focus Optics - The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in seven acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

* OPENING TIMES
Tue–Sat 9am–5pm
SUNDAY 10am–4pm

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA

Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

WE ARE OPEN ON SUNDAYS!
10am–4pm (Closed on Mondays)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED, WE ALSO STOCK:

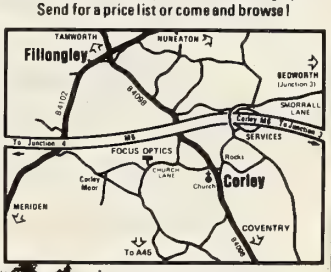
QUESTAR • FUJINON • FUMOTO
MIRADOR • BRESSER • PENTAX
REDFIELD • OPTIMA • PRAKTICA

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic.

Send for a price list or come and browse!



ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone. (D971)

E&OE

Cygnus Wildlife

Holidays for Birdwatchers 1992

Escorted bird tours by experienced leaders, catering for all levels of expertise.

Please request a brochure if you are planning a holiday to one of the following destinations:

India, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Texas, Majorca, Austria, Camargue, Hungary, Poland, USSR, Pyrenees, Arizona & California, Gambia, Argentina, Ecuador & Galapagos, Ethiopia, Kenya, Canada, Australia and Nepal

ABTA 62948

CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS,
57 FORE STREET,
KINGSBRIDGE,
DEVON TQ7 1PG
Telephone 0548 856178
FAX: 0548 857537

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

(D954)

NATURETREK

BIRDING TREKS & TOURS
in
NEPAL · KASHMIR
LADAKH · ZANSKAR
BHUTAN · CHINA
ROMANIA · PYRENEES
INDIA · INDONESIA
MALAYSIA · TURKEY
GREECE · CYPRUS
KENYA · TANZANIA
EGYPT · ETHIOPIA
BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA
AUSTRALIA · MALAWI
NAMIBIA · MOROCCO
RWANDA · ZAIRE
GALAPAGOS · CRETE
NEW ZEALAND
NEWFOUNDLAND

Independent Travel · Tailor-made Tours · Private Safaris · Flights
For our brochure/expert advice phone **0962 733051**
CHAUTARA, BIGHTON, Nr.ALRESFORD, HANTS. SO24 9RB

(D917)

FOCALPOINT VISA

The binocular and telescope specialists
Run by birders for birders

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS
Try and buy your new optics at these Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Reserves (10.30am–4pm)

SUN 16th FEB	SUN 8th MAR	SUN 15th MAR	SUN 12th APRIL
MARTIN MERE Lancs. (M6, Jct 27)	SLIMBRIDGE Glos. (M5, Jct 13)	MARTIN MERE. Lancs. (M6, Jct 27)	WASHINGTON Tyne & Wear (District 15).

FINE ART DEPT. — Ask for full price list

SKUA stay-on-the-scope cases Fittings for KOWA, OPTOLYTH, NIKON & PICCOLO	MAIL ORDER OR CALLERS WELCOME	SUPERB VIEWS	OPEN MON-FRI 9.30–5.30 CLOSED SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

LEICA – New 'olive-drab' Safari models – all sizes from stock NOW.

BOOK SHELF
Good selection of titles from Poyser, Macmillan, Collins, etc. e.g. Rare Birds, Warblers, Herons of Europe



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 (D969)

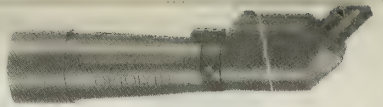
Please order all your BIRD BOOKS from 'BRITISH BIRDSHOP'

Please use the form on the cut-out page in this issue.

The purchase of books and recordings through 'British BirdShop' subsidises every subscription, and adds extra pages and extra photographs to every issue of *British Birds*

(BB515)

THE SALE CONTINUES - TAKE 5% OFF ALL PRICES BELOW!



BINOCULARS

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£236
10 x 25 B	£259
8 x 20 BGA	£305
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£509
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£589
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£729
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£599
7 x 50 BGAT* P	£599
8 x 20B (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B (New Style)	£320

PLUS Phone For Special Demo-Stock Prices!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	PRICE INCLUDES LEATHER CASE	£199
8 x 20 BCA		£226
10 x 25 BC		£226
10 x 25 BCA		£239
7 x 42 BA	ALL FROM STOCK	£628
8 x 42 BA		£628
10 x 42 BA		£628

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
DWCF 8 x 24 Compact	£151
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£179
Minerva 10 x 40	£175
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239

SWIFT

Saratoga 8 x 42	ONE ONLY	£129
Osprey 7.5 x 42	ONE ONLY	£135
Audubon 8.5 x 44 B		£199
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY		£269

SWAROVSKI OPTIC – THE NATURAL CHOICE

* SUPERB OPTICS
* BEAUTIFULLY MADE
* ALL MODELS FULLY *WATERTIGHT*

8 x 20 B Roof Prism	£215
8 x 30 SV WB Roof Prism	£365

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
NEW 8 x 24 Compact	£99
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£629
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629

8 x 30 WM	£299
10 x 40 WM	£365
10 x 40 WM GA	£399

Demo-Stock Clearance – 25% off these prices

CARL ZEISS VICTORY

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£119.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 B	~~£209.95~~	£169.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199

Custom 8 x 36 B	£189.95
Custom 10 x 40 B	£199.95
Custom 10 x 40 B Armoured	£249.95

Demo-Stock Clearance – 25% off these prices

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7-15 x 35 Zoom	£119
7 x 21 x 50 Zoom	£139

HANIMEX

8 x 21 Compact	£29.95
10 x 25 Compact	£39.95

SCOPES

GREENKAT

Kestrel 20 x 60 Waterproof	£209
Kestrel 30 x 60 Waterproof	£219

KOWA

Kowa Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices

TSN-601 Body	£179
TSN-602 Body	£179
TSN 1 Body	£295
TSN 2 Body	£295
TSN 3 Body	£555
TSN 4 Body	£555
20 x WA	£96
25 x	£63
30 x WA	£119
40 x	£63
20-60 x Zoom	£139

Cases, Photo adaptors etc. also stocked.

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265

SCOPES

Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x	£379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x	£554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x	£629.95

Nikon Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices!

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 18-40 & Case	£159
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£169
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60 x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31

OPTOLYTH

Optolyth Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices!

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBS/TBC 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

SWAROVSKI

AT 80 Body	£547
22 x WA	£72
20-60 x Zoom	£164

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£190

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Velbon D-400	£44.95
Velbon Victory 480	£49.95
Velbon D-500	£49.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95
Vanguard VT-528	£59.95

Most Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

SECONDHAND

Binos

Zeiss Notarem 8 x 32B	£109
Heron 8 x 40	£39
Panorama Merlin 8 x 40	£49

Scopes

Optolyth 30 x 75 Drawscope c/w Case	£199
Opticron HR60 c/w 22x W	£125
Bushnell Trophy 12-36 x 50 c/w Case, Mini tripod	£119

London Camera Exchange

SOUTHAMPTON 0703 221597/335363
10 High Street, Southampton SO1 0DH
(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen)
Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm



PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ 14-day home trial scheme on all optical equipment.
- ☆ Best prices guaranteed, and discount for RSPB members on SELECTED ITEMS.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Fast Mail Order service available. (Trakbak Insured Parcel Post, normally £3 extra , £5 extra for heaviest packages)
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- ☆ Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

Access

VISA

(D972)

Bird Illustrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Kowa Telescopes

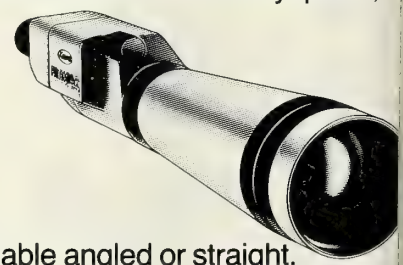


Red-breasted Mergansers displaying. Nik Borrow's award winning 1990 BIY Competition entry

"First, and most important, this telescope is optically magnificent, with phenomenal clarity and a superbly large field of view.

If you are a birder who is seeking the best possible telescope . . . the optical gain is significant, especially in the worst viewing conditions. It is an elite instrument, to be treasured by those fortunate enough to own one."

Dr J T R Sharrock, testing the Kowa TSN-3 with ×20W eyepiece, British Birds June 1990.



Kowa TSN Fluorite lens scope, available angled or straight.

Kowa A superb image

Officially appointed distributor for Kowa Telescopes
Pyser-SGI Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HA

(D915)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY 1992



The new DNA-DNA avian classification

What's it all about?

Burt L. Monroe, Jr

In 1988, a new avian classification system was published (Sibley *et al.* 1988) that arranged and classified birds in a new hierarchy and sequence, significantly different from that currently used in ornithology, based entirely upon a laboratory technique known as DNA-DNA hybridisation (shortened hereafter in this article to just DNA-DNA). Although a large portion of the data supporting parts of this classification had been published during the decade of the 1980s through the many papers by Sibley and Ahlquist, it was not until December 1990 that the full documentation was available (Sibley & Ahlquist 1990). That monumental work was accompanied by a companion volume (Sibley & Monroe 1990) that placed all the bird species of the world in the DNA-DNA-based classification and updated their distribution, ecology, and taxonomic information pertinent to that listing.

The first reaction most birders experience when seeing these two massive books and confronted with this system for the first time ranges from complete frustration to stark terror, as exemplified by these comments: 'Having just spent the better part of my life learning the classification of birds so that I can use all the books, am I going to have to trash all that and learn a new system all over again?', or 'Why can't professional ornithologists leave well enough alone and keep the system as it is?', or perhaps even 'Why do we need a classification system—can't we just list birds in alphabetical order?'. The answer to all these questions is simple: it is the goal of biological scientists everywhere, whether studying plants, butterflies, fish, birds, or any other of the myriad groups

of living things, to express the natural world in terms of the relationships of organisms one to another and, thus, to classify animals and plants in a natural system, not an artificial one. That is why whales are always listed with other mammals, and not with fish, which they resemble superficially much more closely than they do their nearer relatives. The big question in taxonomy is how to determine who is related to whom. This new classification of birds is intended to do this better than any system heretofore.

So now the ornithological world is faced with the problem of what to do with a system that purports to be the best at showing true relationships. The decision will have to be faced either to accept this system or to discard it in favour of one already in place; in other words, is the new system real and of value in our understanding of ornithology, or is it just another system based on data that may or may not improve upon our present classification? In order for one to make judgment in such a case, it is essential to know just what the system is supposed to show, and whether there are sufficient data from other sources to indicate that this classification warrants supplanting any other in existence. I am going to give you an insight into the background of this system, expressed from the viewpoint of one who is not a biochemist or geneticist and who has not been involved directly in the detailed laboratory experiments that developed the database for the system.

Up to now, all classification systems have been based primarily upon morphology, the hierarchy in taxonomy being developed by comparing similarities and differences between birds and deciding through a set of procedures which of these factors are important in showing the true relationship between kinds of birds. Two problems exist with any system of this sort: (1) there has to be a degree of subjectivity in any decision as to the weight (importance) of similarities, leading often to incorrect groupings of non-related birds, and (2), perhaps more importantly, evolutionary convergence (such as we see with whales and sharks) often obscures the true relationships, sometimes leading to major errors in taxonomy (refer to the songbird case when you get to it later in this article). The DNA-DNA system is designed to remove all subjectivity by showing which birds are more closely related *genetically* to which others, the idea being that the more alike genetically two birds are, the more recently in geological time they shared a common ancestor and thus are more closely related to one another. The DNA-DNA hybridisation technique is not all that new in science, but Sibley and Ahlquist were the first to apply the technique seriously to bird systematics, examining literally thousands of species to determine genetic relationships. And here's how the system basically works.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is a double-stranded molecule that is found in every living organism; it contains the coding system that makes specific animals what they are. Think of the DNA double strand as a ladder, with two parallel sides connected by the cross pieces (rungs); grab each end of the ladder and give the whole thing a twist, and the resultant twisted, spiral piece can be likened to the DNA molecule. At each side where a rung joins the side pieces, there is a nucleotide in the DNA

molecule; in a single copy (which would be one side of the ladder) of the whole genome of one bird, there are about 1.7 *billion* nucleotides. Despite this staggering number, there are only four different kinds of nucleotides in DNA, each with a different nitrogenous 'base' in its chemical structure (adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine, abbreviated A, C, G, and T, respectively). The sides of the ladder represent the two strands, which are complements of each other; that means that where there is an 'A' on one strand there is a 'T' on the opposite end of the rung on the other side, and where there is a 'C' it pairs with a 'G'. The rungs of the ladder correspond to the hydrogen bonds that hold A-T and G-C together; if any other combination is there on the opposite sides of the rung (e.g., an 'A' on one side and a 'C', 'G', or another 'A' on the other side), the hydrogen bond cannot form and the rung is 'missing'. These hydrogen bonds are what hold the two strands together. The more matches there are (i.e. the more rungs there are), the stronger the strands are bound together. This principle is the basis of the DNA-DNA hybridisation technique, for it is known that the more closely related two organisms are, the more alike is their DNA (i.e., more matches and 'rungs' would be present if complementary strands of their respective DNAs were matched); conversely, distantly related things are more different, and there would be fewer matches in their respective DNA strands.

The laboratory technique is generally as follows. The DNA from a bird is extracted from red blood cells or tissue and purified of RNA, protein, and other materials. The long DNA strands are 'sheared' into shorter pieces (about 500 bases long) so that pairing is made easier. Through a special technique, multiple copies of DNA are removed so that but a single copy of each gene remains.

The technique takes advantage of the fact that, when DNA is heated to boiling (thus breaking the hydrogen bonds between the two strands) and then cooled, the hydrogen bonds are again established between complementary bases, and the double-stranded structure is re-formed. The trick is to label the DNA of one species with a radioactive tracer and make hybrids, first with itself (as a control) and then with the DNAs of other species.

For the control, both strands of the hybrids consist of DNA of the same species, so the amount of base-pair matching is the greatest. When these 'hybrids' are subjected to a controlled elevation of temperature, in which they are heated incrementally up to boiling, a melting curve is produced beginning with 0% single-stranded DNA (= 100% double-stranded) at 60°C and ending with 100% single-stranded DNA at about 95°C after all the hydrogen bonds are broken. The temperature at which the curve intercepts the 50% line is called the '$T_{50}H$', or the temperature at which half the strands are double and half are single. For birds and, indeed, most vertebrates, that is somewhere around 85°C.

That gives the base $T_{50}H$ figure for that species. Next, a small number of these radio-labelled single strands are mixed with a large number of single strands from a *second* species (not radioactively tagged). Now, when the complementary strands find each other, most of them form 'hybrid'

molecules consisting of a radioactive half from the first species paired with a non-radioactive half from the second species. These hybrid DNA molecules do not pair up exactly, the degree of non-match reflecting the amount of genetic difference between the two species. When these hybrids are subjected to an elevation in temperature, they produce a curve with a $T_{50}H$ at a lower temperature (say, 75° in this case); that is because, with the fewer base matches and fewer hydrogen bonds, the strands break apart more easily (i.e., at a lower temperature). By comparing the two $T_{50}H$ temperatures, one gets a difference of 10°; this figure is called the $\Delta T_{50}H$ ('delta $T_{50}H$'), and it is that figure that dictates the hierarchy of classification. For example, if the two species that were tested above gave a $\Delta T_{50}H$ of 10, they would be classified in separate families of birds; to be sufficiently closely related to be placed in the same family, the delta $T_{50}H$ would have to be less than 9. If above 11, the two species would not only be in separate families, but also in separate superfamilies; the number would have to be 20 or greater for the birds to be classified in different orders. And so on, through the entire classification system. The correlation between $\Delta T_{50}H$ figures and the taxonomic categories is given in both Sibley *et al.* (1988, p. 412) and in Sibley & Ahlquist (1990, p. 254).

The big advantage to such a system is that the classification is totally objective: there is no subjective guess as to weight or importance of any characters, and the classification is based entirely on a single value showing genetic relationship. The biggest disadvantage is that it is totally cladistic: it does not pay any attention to morphological divergence (different from genetic divergence, because of the adaptive nature of some characters and the resultant rapid way external characters may evolve in nature). Thus, morphologically divergent groups such as falcons and penguins have a $\Delta T_{50}H$ of only 16.4 and end up being sufficiently closely related to be placed in the same order instead of the traditional separate orders. For the most part, however, the DNA-DNA classification is closely similar to the morphological systems that are currently used, and the higher categories are the same.

Perhaps the most surprising thing to be discovered as a result of the technique, and which appeared unexpectedly, was the fact that most of the Australian songbirds (oscines) are related to one another, thus having gone through an adaptive radiation in Australia similar to that which we find with the marsupial mammals. This fact remained hidden to science until the DNA-DNA data revealed it because the birds do not have a shared, external morphological character similar to the marsupial pouch by which we long ago realised the true relationships between the mammals. There have been a number of other surprises, including the close relationship of starlings and mockingbirds, and of New World vultures and storks; most of these had been suggested before, but the evidence for them had been considered insufficient to cause a change in classification.

The second book (Sibley & Monroe 1990), which is perhaps of more direct interest to birders, is an entirely different sort of publication. It is a world list that follows the DNA-DNA classification for purposes of higher

taxonomic categories (tribe on up), but species are usually so closely related (with resultant low $\Delta T_{50}H$ figures) that the DNA-DNA technique becomes less reliable at showing relationships; the $\Delta T_{50}H$ figures approach the level of experimental error, and, thus, exact relationships at this level cannot be easily ascertained. Limits in species (and to a lesser degree genera) were determined primarily on the basis of the most recent studies made on the group. A modified biological species approach was taken for the species level, and those taxa that displayed differences, particularly in vocalisations, ecology or behaviour, indicating an isolating mechanism to prevent free interbreeding, were treated as different species rather than subspecies. And it was my intention in preparation of the manuscript to provide a reference for all situations in which there were controversial or conflicting classifications, so there is extensive documentation and many literature citations throughout the book. Other sections were designed to make the book more 'user friendly' (such as the world numbering system for computerising lists, the maps and accompanying gazetteer, and the extensive index).

Perhaps the most controversial feature (and one that is controversial in nearly all books and lists) is that of the English names that were used. Although I formed an international group to provide input on the best choice of names, there are some obvious problems in any attempt to have a list of standardised English names. It is hoped that a new international committee, established by the International Ornithological Congress for the purpose of developing a worldwide list of standardised English names, will be more successful and attain a better selection. Of the 11 members on this committee, two are from the United Kingdom (your editor, Tim Sharrock, and Tim Inskipp); in the next few years, if you have any input regarding names in the Sibley-Monroe book that you think need to be changed, please contact one of these two and supply them with reasons for using a different name. As chairman of this committee, I want to assure all readers that all input of this nature to the committee will be considered in the final selection of names.

I cannot tell you how all this classification business is going to end. I can only say that, for more than a decade, a myriad of people have taken aim at trying to discredit the DNA-DNA classification or technique, even to the point of accusing Sibley and Ahlquist of fraud. Not only have the system and the authors withstood all that criticism, but there have also been more and more data supporting the basic elements of the classification. For example, after the Australian radiation news hit the bird journals (Diamond 1983; Gould 1985), a morphological character (the number of fossae in the head of the humerus) was re-evaluated throughout the thousands of songbird species and showed a higher-than-90% correlation with the DNA-based classification. In the case of the condors (New World vultures) and storks, an extensive morphological study done previously by J. David Ligon (1967) indicated the same condor-stork relationship. Another surprising relationship revealed in the DNA study was the close relationship between pelicans and the Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex*, an African stork-like bird. After publication of the DNA

data, however, it came to light that Patricia Cottam, a graduate student in England, had discovered the same relationship through a morphological study in her thesis (Cottam 1957), but nobody believed it at the time, thus burying the information for almost three decades.

If one looks at all the data—and literally thousands of DNA-DNA comparisons have been made—the amount of correlation with the generally known and accepted relationships among birds is impressive. There do not seem to be major discrepancies, such as finding a species of duck closely related to a dove, or a finch among the woodpeckers. It is beginning to look as if the DNA-DNA system may become the basis for avian classification in the future. So, take a deep breath and dig into the taxonomy. I know for a fact that at least a few field guides or lists already in press will follow the DNA-DNA classification, and I'm sure that more will come along in the future.

References

COTTAM, P. A. 1957. The pelecaniform characters of the skeleton of the Shoebill Stork, *Balaeniceps rex. Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Zool.* 5: 49-72.

DIAMOND, J. M. 1983. Taxonomy by nucleotides. *Nature* 305: 17-18.

GOULD, S. J. 1985. A clock of evolution. *Nat. Hist.* 94 (4): 12-25.

LIGON, J. D. 1967. *Relationships of the cathartid vultures.* Occas. Papers Univ. Michigan Mus., no. 651, 26 pp.

SIBLEY, C. G., & AHLQUIST, J. E. 1990. *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds.* New Haven, Connecticut.

——, AHLQUIST, J. E., & MONROE, B. L., JR. 1988. A classification of the living birds of the world, based on DNA-DNA hybridisation studies. *Auk* 105: 409-423.

—— & MONROE, B. L., JR. 1990. *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World.* New Haven, Connecticut.

Dr Burt L. Monroe, Jr, Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292, USA

Simplified summary of Sibley & Monroe (1990) bird classification

ORDERS and Families only; groups including at least one species on the West Palearctic list are shown in bold; figures in parentheses are total number of species in each Family, followed by number of species on the West Palearctic list, if any.

STRUTHIONIFORMES
- **Struthionidae** *Ostrich (1, 1)*
- Rheidae *rheas (2)*
- Casuariidae *cassowaries, Emu (4)*
- Apterygidae *kiwis (3)*

TINAMIFORMES
- Tinamidae *tinamous (47)*

CRACIFORMES
- Cracidae *guans, chachalacas, etc. (50)*
- Megapodiidae *megapodes (19)*

GALLIFORMES
- **Phasianidae** *grouse, turkeys, pheasants, partridges, etc. (177, 23)*
- **Numididae** *guineafowls (6, 1)*
- **Odontaphoridae** *New World quails (6, 2)*

ANSERIFORMES
Anhimidae *screamers (3)*
Anseranatidae *Magpie Goose (1)*
Dendrocygnidae *whistling-ducks (9, 2)*
Anatidae *ducks, swans, geese (148, 65)*

TURNICIFORMES
Turnicidae *buttonquails (17, 1)*

PICIFORMES
Indicatoridae *honeyguides (17)*
Picidae *woodpeckers (215, 13)*
Megalaimidae *Asian barbets (26)*
Lybiidae *African barbets (42)*
Ramphastidae *New World barbets, toucans (55)*

GALBULIFORMES
Galbulidae *jacamars (18)*
Bucconidae *puffbirds (33)*

BUCEROTIFORMES
Bucerotidae *hornbills (54)*
Bucorvidae *ground-hornbills (2)*



UPUPIFORMES
Upupidae *hoopoes (2, 1)*
Phoeniculidae *woodhoopoes (5)*
Rhinopomastidae *scimitarbills (3)*

TROGONIFORMES
Trogonidae *trogons (39)*

CORACIIFORMES
Coraciidae *rollers (12, 4)*
Brachypteraciidae *ground-rollers (5)*
Leptosomidae *Courol (1)*
Momotidae *motmots (9)*
Todidae *todies (5)*
Alcedinidae *Alcedinid kingfishers (24, 1)*
Dacelonidae *Dacelonid kingfishers (61, 2)*
Cerylidae *Cerylid kingfishers (9, 2)*
Meropidae *bee-eaters (26, 3)*

COLIIFORMES
Coliidae *mousebirds (6)*

CUCULIFORMES
Cuculidae *Old World cuckoos (79, 5)*
Centropodidae *coucals (30, 1)*
Coccyzidae *American cuckoos (18, 2)*
Opisthocomidae *Hoatzin (1)*
Crotophagidae *anis, Guira Cuckoo (4)*
Neomorphidae *roadrunners, ground-cuckoos (11)*

PSITTACIFORMES
Psittacidae *parrots, etc. (358, 2)*

APODIFORMES
Apodidae *swifts (99, 11)*
Hemiprocnidae *crested-swifts (4)*

TROCHILIFORMES
Trochilidae *hermits, hummingbirds (319)*

MUSOPHAGIFORMES
Musophagidae *turacos, plantain-eaters (23)*

STRIGIFORMES
Tytonidae *barn-owls, grass-owls (17, 1)*
Strigidae *owls (161, 16)*
Aegothelidae *owlet-nightjars (8)*
Podargidae *Australian frogmouths (3)*
Batrachostomidae *Asian frogmouths (11)*
Steatornithidae *Oilbird (1)*
Nyctibiidae *potoos (7)*
Eurostopodidae *eared-nightjars (7)*
Caprimulgidae *nighthawks, nightjars (76, 5)*

COLUMBIFORMES
Raphidae *Dodo, solitaires (3: all extinct)*
Columbidae *pigeons, doves (310, 13)*

GRUIFORMES
Eurypygidae *Sunbittern (1)*
Otididae *bustards (25, 6)*
Gruidae *cranes (15, 4)*
Heliornithidae *Limpkin, sungrebes (4)*
Psophiidae *trumpeters (3)*
Cariamidae *seriemas (2)*
Rhynochetidae *Kagu (1)*
Rallidae *rails, gallinules, coots (142, 15)*
Mesitornithidae *mesites (3)*



CICONIIFORMES
Pteroclidae *sandgrouse (16, 7)*
Thinocoridae *seedsnipes (4)*
Pedionomidae *Plains-wanderer (1)*
Scolopacidae *woodcocks, snipes, sandpipers, curlews, phalaropes (88, 57)*
Rostratulidae *paintedsnipes (2, 1)*
Jacanidae *jacanas (8)*
Chionididae *sheathbills (2)*
Burhinidae *thick-knees (9, 2)*
Charadriidae *oystercatchers, avocets, stilts, plovers, lapwings (89, 22)*
Glareolidae *Crab-plover, pratincoles, coursers (18, 6)*
Laridae *skuas, skimmers, gulls, terns, auks (129, 64)*
Accipitridae *Osprey, hawks, eagles (240, 40)*
Sagittariidae *Secretarybird (1)*
Falconidae *caracaras, falcons (63, 13)*
Podicipedidae *grebes (21, 6)*
Phaethontidae *tropicbirds (3, 1)*
Sulidae *boobies, gannets (9, 5)*
Anhingidae *anhingas (4, 1)*
Phalacrocoracidae *cormorants (38, 6)*
Ardeidae *herons, bitterns, egrets (65, 25)*
Scopidae *Hammerkop (1)*
Phoenicopteridae *flamingos (5, 2)*
Threskiornithidae *ibises, spoonbills (34, 5)*
Pelecanidae *Shoebill, pelicans (9, 3)*

Ciconiidae *New World vultures, storks (26, 4)*
Fregatidae *frigatebirds (5, 1)*
Spheniscidae *penguins (17)*
Gaviidae *divers (5, 4)*
Procellariidae *petrels, shearwaters, diving-petrels, albatrosses, storm-petrels (115, 26)*

PASSERIFORMES
Acanthisittidae *New Zealand wrens (4)*
Pittidae *pittas (31)*
Eurylaimidae *broadbills (14)*
Philepittidae *asities (4)*
Tyrannidae *Mionectine flycatchers, tyrant-flycatchers, tityras, becards, cotingas, manakins, etc. (537, 2)*
Thamnophilidae *antbirds (188)*
Furnariidae *ovenbirds, woodcreepers (280)*
Formicariidae *ground-antbirds (56)*
Conopophagidae *gnateaters (8)*
Rhinocryptidae *tapaculos (28)*
Climacteridae *Australo-Papuan treecreepers (7)*
Menuridae *lyrebirds, scrub-birds (4)*
Ptilonorhynchidae *bowerbirds (20)*
Maluridae *fairywrens, emuwrens, grasswrens (26)*
Meliphagidae *honeyeaters, etc. (182)*
Pardalotidae *pardalotes, bristlebirds, scrubwrens, thornbills, etc. (68)*
Eopsaltriidae *Australo-Papuan robins (46)*
Irenidae *fairy-bluebirds, leafbirds (10)*
Orthonychidae *Logrunner, Chowchilla (2)*
Pomatostomidae *Australo-Papuan babblers (5)*
Laniidae *shrikes (30, 8)*
Vireonidae *vireos, peppershrikes, etc. (51, 3)*
Corvidae *quail-thrushes, whipbirds, Australian Chough, Apostlebird, sitellas, shrike-tits, whistlers, shrike-thrushes, crows, birds-of-paradise, currawongs, wood-swallows, orioles, cuckooshrikes, fantails, drongos, monarchs, magpie-larks, ioras, bush-shrikes, helmet-shrikes, etc. (647, 18)*
Callaeathidae *New Zealand wattlebirds (3)*
Picathartidae *rock-jumpers, rockfowls (4)*
Bombycillidae *Palmchat, silky-flycatchers, waxwings (8, 1)*
Cinclidae *dippers (5, 1)*
Muscicapidae *thrushes, Old World flycatchers, chats (449, 62)*
Sturnidae *starlings, mynas, mockingbirds, thrashers, catbirds (148, 9)*
Sittidae *nuthatches, Wallcreeper (25, 8)*
Certhiidae *treecreepers, Spotted Creeper, wrens, gnatcatchers, gnatwrens (97, 3)*
Paridae *tits, penduline-tits (65, 10)*
Aegithalidae *long-tailed-tits, bushtits (8, 1)*
Hirundinidae *river-martins, swallows (89, 11)*
Regulidae *kinglets (6, 4)*
Pycnonotidae *bulbuls (137, 3)*
Hypocoliidae *Grey Hypocolius (1, 1)*
Cisticolidae *African warblers (119, 3)*
Zosteropidae *white-eyes (96)*
Sylviidae *leaf-warblers, grass-warblers, laughingthrushes, babblers, Wrentit, scrub-warblers (552, 62)*
Alaudidae *larks (91, 23)*
Nectariniidae *sugarbirds, flower-peckers, sunbirds, spiderhunters (169, 3)*
Melanocharitidae *berrypeckers, longbills (10)*
Paramythiidae *Tit Berrypecker, Crested Berrypecker (2)*
Passeridae *sparrows, rock-sparrows, wagtails, pipits, accentors, weavers, Estrildine finches, whydahs (386, 41)*
Fringillidae *Olive Warbler, chaffinches, Cardueline finches, Hawaiian honeycreepers, buntings, longspurs, towhees, New World wood-warblers, tanagers, Neotropical honeycreepers, seedeaters, flower-piercers, cardinals, troupials, meadowlarks, New World blackbirds, etc. (993, 96)*

Identification of Lanceolated Warbler



Nick Riddiford and Paul V. Harvey

The warbler genus *Locustella* contains seven species, six of which have occurred in Europe. Lanceolated Warbler *L. lanceolata* is the smallest, usually the most heavily streaked, and shows clearly the characteristics of the genus: markedly rounded tail, long undertail-coverts, and secretive, skulking behaviour (and a reeling grasshopper-like song in summer). It most closely resembles Grasshopper Warbler *L. naevia*, and a further potential confusion species is Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *L. certhiola*. It is unlikely to be confused with other *Locustella* species, unless views are particularly poor.

Generalised description and habits

A detailed description, drawn from notes on 13 Lanceolated Warblers studied closely in the field and/or in the hand on Fair Isle, Shetland, and many individuals studied by PVH in southeast Asia, is given below. Additional notes, taken from examination of skins at the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, are also incorporated. Particular attention has been paid to the individual feather patterns of certain plumage tracts; although this may seem to favour in-the-hand circumstances, Lanceolated Warblers are frequently tame enough to allow very close approach, and, furthermore, correct determination of those patterns is the major key to unequivocal identification. The description is inevitably generalised, as the species is variable in a number of plumage features.

Size and structure

The species is tiny to very small, in body bulk being similar to, or even smaller than, Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, and with a relatively short tail. The bill is short and, because of its dark upper mandible and the bird's size, often looks rather fine. The legs are stouter than those of *Phylloscopus* warblers of similar size, but do not look so sturdy as those of other, larger, *Locustella* warblers.

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 62-78, February 1992]

Plumage and bare parts

UPPERPARTS

The majority of upperpart feathers are heavily and darkly streaked, producing a rather dark, drab upperpart appearance. The other major colour on the upperparts, comprising the fringes of individual feathers, varies from dull olive-grey to dull ginger-brown. Crown and mantle feathers always have very well defined blackish centres.

CROWN Individual crown feathers are small, and the dark crown-streaking often does not, therefore, appear so heavy as that of the mantle. Nevertheless, crown feathers are predominantly dark grey to grey-black, with dull olive-grey to ginger-brown fringes (and on some individuals are as heavily streaked as mantle feathers). Thus, crown is clearly and closely, if often narrowly, streaked.

NAPE The dark streaking of the nape feathers varies from little more than a mesial line to streaking as heavy as on crown. The former pattern is slightly commoner (only 30% of skins showed nape-streaking as heavy as on crown and mantle), and so nape often, but by no means always, appears rather plain, in contrast to crown and mantle.

MANTLE Although intensity of markings varies individually, mantle always appears streaked, frequently heavily. This is due to the size of the feathers and also, at least in some cases, to the streaks being darker compared with those on the crown (grey-black rather than dark grey) and occupying a larger proportion of the feather. Mantle-feather fringes are ginger-brown to dull grey-olive, and are relatively narrow (occupying 10-20% of feather at its widest point). The dark streaking usually reaches the tip of each feather, often broadly, and consequently fringing does not continue onto feather tip (fig.1).

BACK AND RUMP The amount of streaking, particularly on rump, is much more variable than on mantle. The proportion of fringing on back is greater than on mantle feathers, so this tract tends to appear less heavily marked than mantle. Rump often appears as heavily streaked as mantle (although the dark centres do not occupy so much of the feather), though on about 40% of skins it appeared less heavily streaked. Rarely, rump can appear almost unstreaked in the field.

UPPERTAIL-COVERTS Feathers greyish-brown or ginger-brown, with about equal number of individuals (25% each among skins) having either no dark centres, poorly defined dark centres, obvious dark centres, or bold dark centres (= streaks) as prominent as on mantle. There was no correlation between markings of mantle, rump and uppertail-coverts: i.e. individuals with heavily marked rumps often had poorly marked uppertail-coverts, etc.

UPPERWING The wing-coverts follow the same general pattern as mantle. The alula and primary coverts, however, are grey-centred, with no hint of black; lesser coverts are broadly fringed ginger-brown to pale greyish-brown, so that the grey-black centres can be obscured; and median coverts, too, are relatively broadly fringed. Greater coverts have dull black centres, darker than all other wing-feather tracts apart from tertials, and slightly narrower pale ginger-brown to greyish-brown fringes which are complete (uniting at feather tip). Primaries and secondaries are grey, matching primary coverts in colour. Outermost tertial is dark and the other two tertials darker still, appearing matt black with neat pale ginger-brown to greyish-brown fringes. These fringes contrast markedly with feather centres and also are well demarcated, heightening the contrast; at the feather tip, they can appear very narrow and whitish.

TAIL Tail feathers are grey-brown above, with very narrow pale grey-brown or ginger-brown fringes to outer webs.

SIDES OF HEAD There is usually a very indistinct off-white supercilium from above bill to just behind eye (often with slight, but distinct, rusty tone above lores), a very faint dark loral stripe, and dull olive-grey or brown-grey ear-coverts poorly mottled darker: giving species a very 'plain-faced' appearance.

UNDERPARTS

The major features of the underparts, and often assumed to be characteristic of the species, are a pectoral band or gorget of streaks across

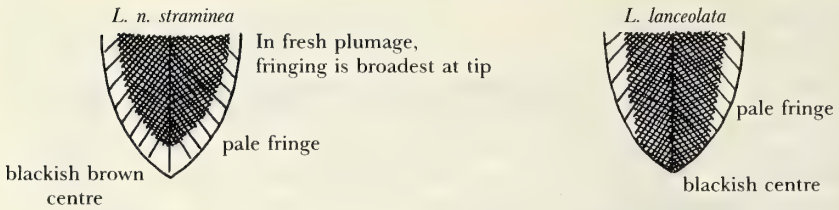


Fig. 1. Mantle feather patterns of Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* of eastern race *straminea* (left) and Lanceolated Warbler *L. lanceolata* (right)

the throat/upper breast and marked streaking on the flanks. Both features, however, are variable. The general ground colour is white with a dull buffish or even greyish wash. Rarely, individuals have a yellow wash to chin and throat (plate 21).

CHIN White, generally with slight dirty-buff wash; well-marked individuals often with a few very small brown-grey spots.

THROAT As chin, but (usually) with dark, relatively broad mesial lines to most feathers, giving a gorget of short grey streaks right across throat.

FLANKS Flank streaking is very variable (table 1). Fore flanks usually have short streaks formed by brown-grey centres to feathers, representing a continuation of the streaked pectoral band, but are sometimes unmarked. There are generally much broader brown-grey mesial streaks to rear-flank feathers (and on outermost undertail-coverts); thus, rear flanks are often strongly marked with broader streaks, this streaking continuing onto at least the border of undertail-coverts. Ground colour of flanks (i.e. the general feather tone) is buff-brown.

BREAST White with a dull buffish or greyish wash, upper and occasionally entire breast overlaid with dark brown to blackish streaking. This overlay of streaking often extends onto sides of breast. Some individuals, however, can apparently virtually lack streaking on breast (Alström 1989).

BELLY White with a dull buffish or greyish wash.

UNDERTAIL-COVERTS Undertail-coverts tend to look dark and mottled, as the majority are a mixture of browns and greys, all with a strong buffy or gingery wash. The shortest ones have well-defined dark brown-grey to grey-black 'teardrop centres' (though one skin had no dark centres to any undertail-coverts). Longest ones often have no dark centres (65% of skins), and, even when present, dark centres do not extend to base of feather; the visible part of feather (i.e. that part not overlain by other coverts) can, however, under field conditions, show a dark centre (fig. 2). Longest undertail-coverts are invariably tipped white or off-white; this tipping can be as much as 5 mm long, but, although obvious in the hand, it is of doubtful value in the field (see Discussion).

UNDERWING Whitish, but with a strong rich ginger-buff wash. Some mid-grey to dark-grey spots are often present on under primary coverts.

BARE PARTS

BILL Upper mandible dark horn with pale cutting edge; lower mandible pale pink, darkening slightly towards tip, so that tip is pinkish-grey and can look dark.

LEGS Pale pink, with feet and soles pale yellowish-pink.

EYE Dark hazel-brown, but looks black in the field.

16, 17 & 18. Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*, Fair Isle, Shetland. Top, September 1987 (*Tim Loseby*); centre, 30th September 1990 (*David Tipling*); bottom, 16th/17th September 1989 (*Pete Ewer*). Note rusty tone to fore part of supercilium (centre and bottom); heavily streaked upperparts (including back and rump, especially visible on bottom portrait), with black extending to tips of feathers; and 'classic' tertial patterns; top and centre birds both comparatively poorly marked

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Zeiss experience and quality has hieved a world wide reputation excellence.

their latest Binocular Survey, the of the universally respected

British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading. Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton. Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: tri Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street, City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate, Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road, Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hannington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton, Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds, Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York, J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough, Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports
Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the country.

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

ZEISS
Germany
Carl Zeis

(D96

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

(D864)









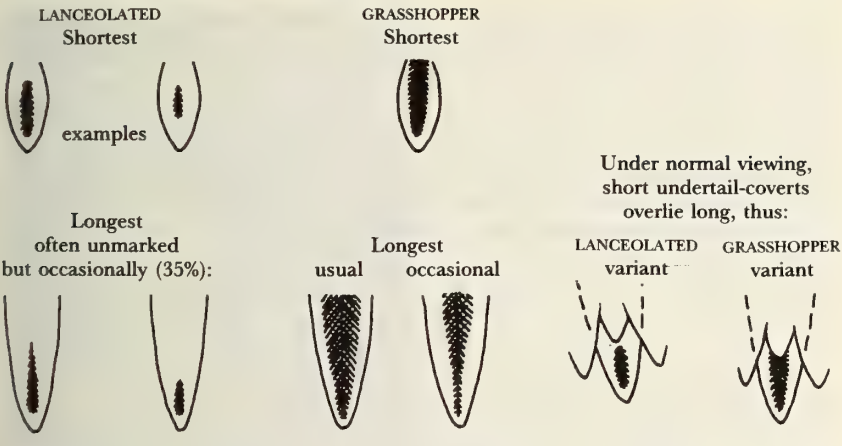


Fig. 2. Undertail-covert patterns of Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* and Grasshopper Warbler *L. naevia*

Voice

The call is normally described as 'chirr-chirr' (e.g. Dementiev & Gladkov 1954), but, judging from vagrants on Fair Isle, the species may be mainly silent on migration. At least some of the many Lanceolated Warblers wintering in Thailand, however, call frequently (Dr J. T. R. Sharrock *in litt.* and I. S. Robertson *in litt.*), noted as 'a diagnostic, explosive "rink-tink-tink" ' by Lekagul & Round (1991).

The song is a long reel, 'tinny, rhythmic and frail compared with Grasshopper Warbler's; it has a hesitant character, whereas Grasshopper's has an assertive, confident delivery' (A. R. Dean *in litt.*). It has been captured on tape by Mild (1987). Song may not assist with identification of autumn vagrants, but it did lead to the discovery of at least one recent summer individual in Finland (Heikki Karhu *in litt.*).

Habitat and behaviour

Vagrant Lanceolated Warblers on Fair Isle have demonstrated that, on passage, this species can occur in any habitat. Damp places, particularly muddy ditches and boggy grassland, are favoured sites, but drier habitats such as gardens have also played host to it; the essential ingredient appears to be cover, whether it be an overgrown ditch, the engine of a disused road-roller or a cluster of milk pails. Various types of damp grassland and tussocky thickets are also favoured breeding (Dementiev & Gladkov 1954) and wintering (King *et al.* 1975) habitats.

All *Locustella* warblers have a reputation for skulking, but none more spectacularly than Lanceolated. Fair Isle vagrants habitually burrow, mouse-like, into tussocks of grass and other dense vegetation until lost to

19, 20 & 21. Lanceolated Warblers *Locustella lanceolata*, Fair Isle, Shetland. Top, 16th/17th September 1989 (*Pete Ewer*); centre, 23rd September 1990 (*Phil Palmer*); bottom, 30th September 1990 (*Alan Roberts*). Top and centre both show 'classic', well-marked individuals; bottom, comparatively poorly marked individual, especially in regard to streaking on upperparts and broad fringes to tertials, which, nevertheless, are still clear and exhibit considerable contrast with matt-black centres

The inclusion of plates 16-21 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.



22. Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*, Fair Isle, Shetland, September 1982 (*Andrew Moon*). Note typical pectoral gorget

view, only to emerge at some other point a few seconds, or even minutes, later. The species is secretive, but not shy. Most Lanceolated Warblers pay scant attention to human beings, prompting accounts of standard-lens photographs and individuals running over footwear (e.g. *Brit. Birds* 84: plate 269). This is apparently also the case in the species' winter quarters (Dr J. T. R. Sharrock *in litt.*). If one settles in a more open habitat, such as a recently cleared ditch, it can often be in view more or less continuously for long periods; locomotion in these circumstances is normally a fairly deliberate and slow stalking gait with frequent changes of direction, interspersed with short, rather rapid runs with horizontal carriage. Individuals foraging along walls or ditch banks occasionally cock their tail in a manner reminiscent more of some *Sylvia* warblers than of *Locustella*. Lanceolated Warblers will fly, but often not until they are virtually trodden on; their flight then, though fast, is low and appears weak, probably owing to their short, rounded wings and relatively short (for a *Locustella*) tail.

Discussion

'Lanceolated Warbler is a tiny, heavily streaked *Locustella* with a string of streaks across the throat and/or upper breast forming an obvious gorget.' This statement is true, but with qualifications. Lanceolated Warblers are extremely variable. No two Fair Isle individuals in the last ten years, for instance, have been identical in every aspect of plumage and/or size. There is a small overlap in size between Lanceolated and Grasshopper Warblers; Lanceolated tends to have a shorter primary projection, but, again, there is overlap. Considerable individual variation exists in the extent of the gorget of streaks, with an equally large variation in the extent of flank streaking. In addition, the ground colour of the upperparts is influenced by the colour of individual feather fringes.

A gorget of spots or streaks and heavy flank streaking are often quoted as major characters of the species. We assessed variations in the amount

and intensity of underpart streaking by examining the skin collection at the British Museum (Natural History), Tring (see tables 1 & 2). This suggested that throat streaking is indeed a character of the species, though its extent is extremely variable: from heavy and extensive streaking on entire chin, throat and breast to a single line of streaks across the throat or upper breast. Flank streaking was not universal, though only 7% of skins had completely unstreaked flanks. Some, however, were extensively marked, with heavy lanceolate streaks on the rear flanks extending onto the lower belly or vent area. Two were streaked 'like a pipit *Anthus*' on the entire underparts, except for a narrow central strip of belly. Gorget and flank streaking ranged in colour from mid-brown to brownish-black.

There was no correlation between the intensity of the gorget and the amount of streaking on the flanks. For instance, the individual with the most heavily marked and extensive gorget (on chin, throat and entire breast) had just three or four very poorly demarcated, light flank streaks, and two with heavily marked gorgets had no obvious flank streaks.

So, bearing this in mind, what are the potential confusion species?

Table 1. Intensity of flank streaking on 98 skins of Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* in British Museum (Natural History), Tring

Intensity	Fore flanks	Rear flanks
No streaking	15	5
A few streaks	54	34
Moderate streaking	24	44
Heavy streaking	5	15

Table 2. Amount and intensity of underpart streaking on 98 skins of Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* in British Museum (Natural History), Tring

Intensity	Gorget	Flanks
Heavy	24	31
Medium	49	36
Light	25	24
None	0	7

Unlikely candidate species and Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler

We are assuming a level of competence among *British Birds* readers above that of mistaking a small pipit or waterthrush *Seiurus* for Lanceolated Warbler, and make no further reference to those species other than to warn that such simplistic errors (at least in the case of skulking pipits) have been made. Similarly, Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* should be relatively easily separated by, among other features, its unstreaked underparts, rufous rump, and short, white-tipped tail.

Among the *Locustella* warblers, size and absence or near absence of streaking quickly rule out Gray's Grasshopper *L. fasciolata*, Savi's *L. luscinioides* and River Warblers *L. fluviatilis*. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler shares a number of characters with Lanceolated, including very heavy and dark upperpart streaking and a tendency (on Fair Isle, at least) to run along ditches and to go through, rather than around, clumps of



23. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* singing, Netherlands, April 1973 (*P. Munsterman*). Note tertials and shape of dark centres to feathers of upperparts

vegetation; young (the species apparently migrates in juvenile plumage: Alström 1989) can also show a marked gorget of throat spots and heavy flank streaking. Pallas's Grasshopper is, however, noticeably larger and, even when judgment of size is difficult, it appears markedly sturdy, particularly with respect to legs and bill. Its rusty rump and tail-tip pattern are diagnostic, but the latter can be difficult to see in the field. Most Pallas's Grasshoppers, however, show obvious pale, usually white, tips to the innermost tertials (Riddiford & Harvey in prep.), and this feature can be more readily seen than the tail-tip pattern. Tail-tip pattern is never shared with Lanceolated, nor does the latter ever show such markedly pale tips to the tertials. We believe that Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler could not be misidentified as Lanceolated or vice versa provided care is taken to observe the above features.

Grasshopper Warbler

The greatest confusion candidate is Grasshopper Warbler. Most Grasshopper Warblers are larger than most Lanceolated, but there is a small overlap in measurements sufficient even to make in-the-hand identification less straightforward in a few cases (of 22 Lanceolated Warblers trapped on Fair Isle, three overlapped in wing length by 0-2 mm with the smallest Grasshopper Warbler trapped there). In the field, the problem is compounded by the difficulty of judging size, particularly as *Locustella* warblers are rarely seen alongside other birds. On Fair Isle, unfamiliarity



24. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* singing, Norfolk, May 1979 (*Kevin Carlson*). Note patterns on tertials and upperparts

with either species away from thick cover has also led to errors in size judgment. The tail of Lanceolated Warbler, in proportion to its body, appears shorter than that of Grasshopper; this is most noticeable in flight, but also on the ground when the larger Grasshopper Warbler tail often flaps up and down or gets caught in the wind.

Differences in plumage between Lanceolated and all races of Grasshopper Warbler include general tone of upperparts, feather patterns of upperparts and tertials, tail length, amount and position of flank streaking, shape of throat/upper-breast streaks, coloration of underwing, and undertail-coverts pattern.

Differences in upperpart-feather patterning are sufficient to separate even the most heavily marked Grasshopper Warbler from Lanceolated. There is, however, one caveat: a few Grasshopper skins (all autumn adults of the nominate race) had some upperpart feathers with the pale fringing virtually worn away, and completely so at the tips. All Grasshopper Warblers are likely to exhibit the winter moult regime of the nominate race (Williamson 1960), so individuals of the eastern race *straminea* (see below) may also have worn upperpart-feather tips in autumn and consequently appear more streaked than spotted. This is not so great a pitfall as may first seem. The inner two (and most visible) tertials are the darkest part of the upperparts on Lanceolated (even in fresh plumage Grasshopper's tertials look browner and no darker than upperpart spots). Grasshopper Warblers in worn plumage also have very faded tertials, appearing mid-brown to pale-brown, and contrastingly paler than the dark mantle pigments. Worn Lanceolated Warblers still show relatively dark



25. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* singing, Cornwall, June 1972 (*J. B. & S. Bottomley*). Note slight gorget, but also pattern on undertail-coverts

tertials, which remain as dark as or darker than the dark mantle pigments. In all plumage conditions, the tertial fringe of Grasshopper merges with its duller feather centre (fig. 3), thus giving the tertials a less neat and less contrasted appearance. We consider that the tertial pattern is one of the most consistent and reliable differences between the two species. Nevertheless, assessment of upperpart-feather patterns should always be accompanied by careful observation of plumage condition. Autumn vagrants in Europe will probably not be a problem in this respect: those we have seen on Fair Isle have all been in fresh plumage, and, so far, all 22 Lanceolated Warblers trapped on Fair Isle have been fresh-plumaged first-years.

The amount and position of breast/flank streaking is a useful supporting identification character. Both species can have quite strong streaking on the rear flanks. On many Lanceolated, the gorget of streaks is



Typical LANCEOLATED: matt-black centre, neat pale fringe

Typical GRASSHOPPER: duller, browner centre, broader, less-well-defined fringe

Most Lanceolated-type GRASSHOPPER; but still less-well-defined inner web

Fig. 3. Inner-tertial and middle-tertial patterns of Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* and Grasshopper Warbler *L. naevia*

complete to the sides of the breast; Grasshopper Warblers with 'gorget' spots usually have them confined to the central part of the throat/upper breast. Thus, there is a tendency for the breast-sides, and frequently also the fore flanks, to be streaked on Lanceolated but not on Grasshopper. This is not, however, an invariable character, and should be used only in conjunction with others. There is usually no problem, as the gorget streaks are markedly longer than they are wide on Lanceolated, whereas on Grasshopper any gorget markings are in the shape of round or slightly elongated spots. This character, however, needs to be checked very carefully, as individual feather spots on Grasshopper can merge to appear as one larger streak.

Underwing coloration—pale rusty-brown on Lanceolated and pale olivaceous-buff or pale buff on Grasshopper (Svensson 1984)—is of no use as a field character.

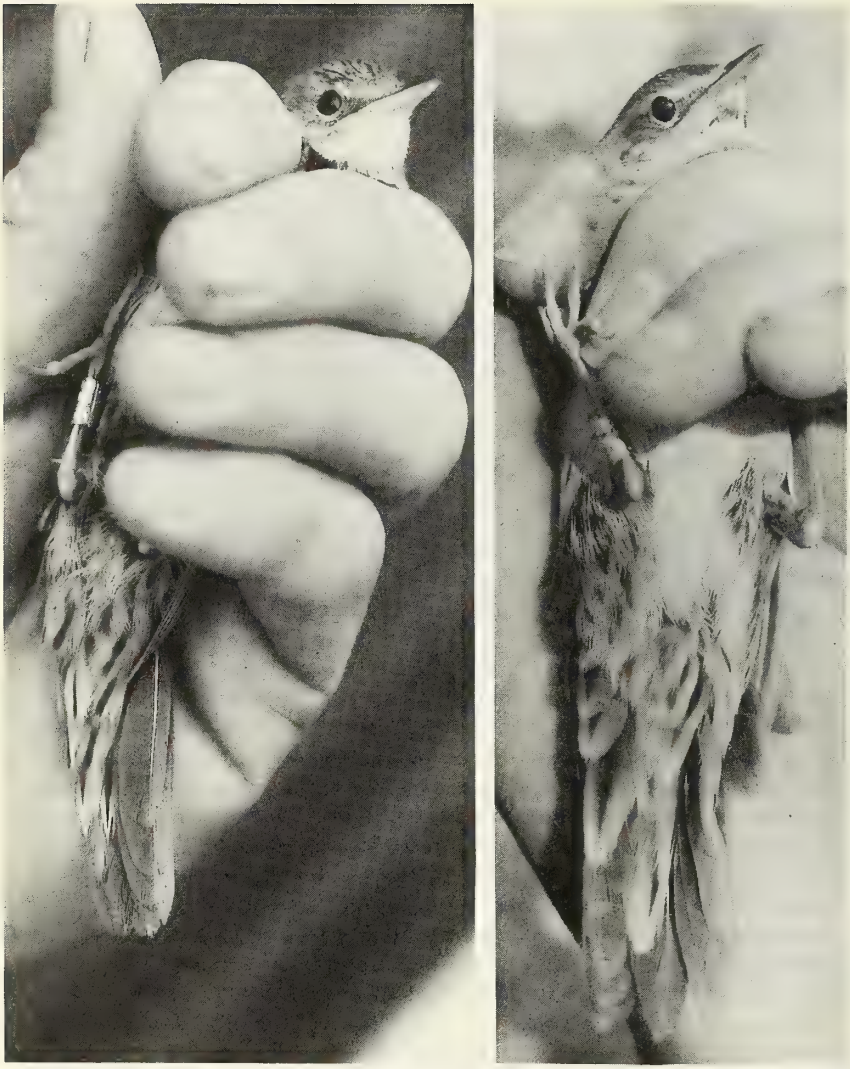
Heavy undertail-covert streaking, including on the longest coverts, has been suggested as a character of Grasshopper Warbler (Alström 1989). Some Lanceolated, however, including individuals trapped on Fair Isle, are also strongly streaked on all undertail-coverts, although the streaks do not extend to the base of the feather and are a different shape (fig. 2). In field conditions, however, the undertail-covert markings can look similar on the two species. A difference already well documented is Lanceolated's long whitish tips to the longest buffish-brown to rusty-brown undertail-coverts (Svensson 1984), a pattern not shown by any Grasshopper Warblers; the value of this feature in field identification, however, is not very high, at least in situations where the bird chooses to skulk at ground level. The predilection of Fair Isle Lanceolated Warblers for ditches and bogs adds another problem: the longest undertail-coverts frequently get wet and the tips then become matted and take on a dull grey or even grey-brown colour, hardly distinguishable from other undertail-covert colours (recognising the true colour of wet undertail-covert tips can be a problem even in the hand). Clearly unmarked longest undertail-coverts are, however, diagnostic of Lanceolated Warbler.

Observers should also be aware of the racial variations of Grasshopper Warblers. These include further differences from Lanceolated, which are outlined below.

NOMINATE RACE OF GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Major differences between nominate Grasshopper Warbler and Lanceolated are that on the former the upperparts tend to be subtly rather than heavily marked, comprising a series of rounded spots merging into the background colour rather than the strongly contrasting blackish streaking of Lanceolated; and flank streaking is absent or very thin, not lanceolate, not obvious, and confined to the mid to rear flanks. Nevertheless, 23 of 75 skins (31%) of nominate Grasshopper in the British Museum (Natural History) collection had a gorget.

The upperparts of Lanceolated Warbler appear more heavily streaked because the dark centres are blacker, well demarcated and often broader



26 & 27. Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (left) and Grasshopper Warbler *L. naevia* (right), Fair Isle, Shetland, September 1984 (*Kevin Osborn*). Note differences in shape and extent of dark centres to feathers of undertail-coverts (as discussed in text); these differences would be hard to see in the field

than on Grasshopper. On the latter, the feather centres are duller and tend to merge into the fringes, giving a less contrasted appearance; unlike those on most Lanceolated, the dark feather centres do not extend to the tip (apart from on a few, generally worn, individuals).

There is a very important difference in tertial pattern (fig. 3). On Lanceolated, the centres are broader and darker, and the tertial tips are often the palest part of the upperparts. On nominate Grasshopper, the tertial centres are duller and the fringes broader and less well defined (i.e.



28. First-winter Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*, Fair Isle, Shetland, September 1984 (*Kevin Osborn*). Note upperparts less heavily marked than those of Lanceolated Warbler *L. lanceolata*, with dark feather centres not extending to tips of feathers

seeming to merge with the darker centres); even the 'best-marked' Grasshopper shows only a poorly defined fringe on the inner web. With regard to tertial appearance, therefore, nominate Grasshopper Warbler does not offer the impression of neatness and contrast shown by Lanceolated.

Rarely, nominate Grasshopper can show fairly extensive breast markings, though these always appear to be spots (each measures 2 mm or less in length and tends to be as broad as it is long), rather than streaks as on Lanceolated. Furthermore, the markings are often heaviest in the centre of the breast, rarely form a pectoral band, and rarely extend down the flanks.

Grasshopper Warblers show dark triangular centres to all undertail-coverts and these extend to the base of the feather. This, however, is very difficult to ascertain under field conditions. The shape of the centre of the longest undertail-coverts is diagnostic, but can be rendered useless as a character owing to overlying shorter undertail-coverts (fig. 2). Grasshopper generally has a less warm wash to the undertail-coverts, but some individuals can show a buff wash.

Other differences include the rump, which on Grasshopper generally shows very poorly defined dark feather centres; and the uppertail-coverts, whose dark centres (on those Grasshoppers showing any at all) are generally poorly defined.

EASTERN RACE OF GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Most Grasshopper Warblers occurring in Britain are unlikely to be confused with Lanceolated: they are much more subtly marked and lack the heavy and obvious streaking of even the least-marked Lanceolated. Unfortunately, in plumage as in size, there is an area of overlap, and the majority of individuals of the eastern race *straminea* of Grasshopper are more heavily marked and, superficially, closely resemble Lanceolated. We are not aware of any British occurrences of *straminea*, but, as this race breeds from eastern Russia to the western foothills of the Altai and probably winters west of Lanceolated in Asia (Dementiev & Gladkov



29. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* singing, Netherlands, April 1989 (*Hans Gebuis*). Note pattern on undertail-coverts

1954), we consider it a potential vagrant to Britain. It would certainly be a pitfall for the unwary in any areas where the two species overlap.

Published descriptions of *straminea* are few and brief (e.g. Dementiev & Gladkov 1954; Williamson 1960) and do not specify any significant plumage differences from Lanceolated. We have, therefore, evolved our own, based on skins at the British Museum (Natural History), Tring; this collection contains 141 Grasshopper Warblers (60 of the race *straminea*, 75 of the nominate race and six of the race *mongolica*). No *mongolica* skins showed any throat/breast spotting, and that race is probably not a confusion risk. Of the *straminea* skins, however, 14 (23%) had upper-breast spots forming a marked gorget, 14 (23%) had a moderate number of upper-breast spots, and 21 (35%) had a few upper-breast spots; only 11 (18%) had no spots. Thus, over 80% of *straminea* had at least some dark brown spots on the upper breast, and on three spotting extended to the throat. Four had a few lanceolate, dark-brown flank streaks, but on the rear flanks only. Four (including the only one with both a gorget of spots and rear-flank streaks) had a strong ochre-yellow wash to the underparts; the remainder were whitish-buff below, with some fulvous-brown wash, particularly on the flanks. Grasshopper Warbler of the race *straminea* is larger than Lanceolated (four skins were markedly so), but is clearly a major potential source of confusion.

Although some Grasshopper Warblers have gorgets of spots, and in the case of *straminea* more heavily marked upperparts, there were consistent differences from Lanceolated. On *straminea*, the upperparts, although

strongly marked, did not appear so heavily streaked; and the tertials were not so dark-centred (thus less prominent than on Lanceolated) and had marginally broader pale edgings. In addition, the tertial fringes merged into the duller centres and were not so clear and contrasting as on Lanceolated, though slightly better defined than on nominate Grasshopper Warbler. On *straminea*, the dark centres to all upperpart feathers were more rounded in shape, owing to the broad pale fringes which ran broadly around onto the tip; on Lanceolated, each feather of the crown and mantle had a broad blackish stripe continuing broadly to the tip, while the generally narrower pale fringes were in most cases interrupted by the streak and so did not run onto the tip (and on other feathers continued only as a very narrow line). On *straminea*, the fringing was in fact broadest at the tip (fig. 1); this is the key upperpart difference that determines the more subtle dark markings and scalloped or scaly appearance of Grasshopper (of all races) and the more heavily streaked appearance of Lanceolated.

There was a consistent difference, too, in underpart markings. On *straminea*, these were rounded or 'teardrop' spots about 2 mm long × 1 mm wide. Lanceolated had streaks rather than spots: these varied enormously in strength and number, but individual streaks were always at least three times as long as they were broad, broadening slightly towards the tip and thus appearing as straight or lanceolate marks; their visual strength depended on colour (ranging from light brown to blackish) and breadth, broader streaks tending to be the darkest in colour.

Table 3. Main characters differentiating Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* **and Grasshopper Warbler** *L. naevia*

Feature	Lanceolated	Grasshopper
Crown, nape & mantle	Darker, broader, clearly defined centres, often reaching tip of feather	Duller, browner centres, merging into less well-defined fringes; centres rarely reach tip of feather
Rump	Often shows obvious dark centres to feathers	Generally poorly defined feather centres
Tertials	Black centres, with well-defined narrow pale fringes occasionally becoming whitish at tips	Duller, browner, less clearly defined centres merging into broader pale fringes
Breast	Usually with gorget of streaks, these extending to fore flanks	Often shows a few spots in centre of breast, these rarely forming a gorget
Flanks	Streaks often extending along flanks	Rarely shows flank streaking
Undertail-coverts	Washed ginger; longest often unmarked, or with dark lanceolate centres extending only one-third towards base	Rarely washed ginger; all feathers with dark triangular-shaped centres extending to base

Summary

Careful observation of a series of characters, in particular upperpart plumage tone, feather patterns of upperparts and tertials, tail length, amount and position of flank streaking, and shape of throat/upper-breast streaks should determine whether an individual is a Lanceolated Warbler or a heavily marked (and probably eastern) Grasshopper Warbler. Of these, the upperparts pattern is the most important, with the tertial pattern probably the most reliable of all features. Table 3 summarises the differences between the two species.

Concluding remarks

The Lanceolated Warbler is still a very rare bird in Britain, but it is remarkably regular on Fair Isle, where one to three have occurred almost annually in the last 20 years. The uncanny ability of a Fair Isle Lanceolated to disappear behind, or even into, the smallest tuft of grass gives a clear indication of why the species goes almost unrecorded elsewhere, and the paucity of mainland records is undoubtedly due more to its covert behaviour than to any lack of ability on the part of observers to identify it. There are, however, potential confusion species, so identification requires attention to plumage details—and, away from Fair Isle, it may also require more than a modicum of good luck.

Acknowledgments

We are extremely grateful to the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, and its staff, particularly Peter Colston, for access to skins; to J. B. & S. Bottomley, Dr Kevin Carlson, Pete Ewer, Hans Gebuis, Tim Loseby, Andrew Moon, P. Munsterman, Kevin Osborn, Phil Palmer, Alan Roberts and David Tipling for provision of photographic material; to the members of the Identification Notes Panel for their helpful comments; and to Robin Prytherch for redrawing figs. 1-3.

References

Alström, P. 1989. Bestämning av träsksångare *Locustella lanceolata*. *Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 335-346 (with English summary).

Dementiev, G. P., & Gladkov, N. A. (eds.) 1954. *Birds of the Soviet Union*. vol. 6. Israel Program for Scientific Translation, Jerusalem.

Flint, V. E., Boehme, R. L., Kostin, Y. V., & Kuznetsov, A. A. 1968 (1984). *A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR*. Princeton, New Jersey.

King, B., Woodcock, M., & Dickinson, E. C. 1975. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. London.

Lekagul, B., & Round, P. D. 1991. *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand*. Bangkok.

Mild, K. 1987. *Soviet Bird Songs*. Stockholm.

Svensson, L. 1984. *Identification Guide to European Passerines*. Third edn. Stockholm & Tring.

Williamson, K. 1960. *Identification for Ringers, 1. The Genera Cettia, Locustella, Acrocephalus and Hippolais*. BTO Guide no. 7. Oxford.

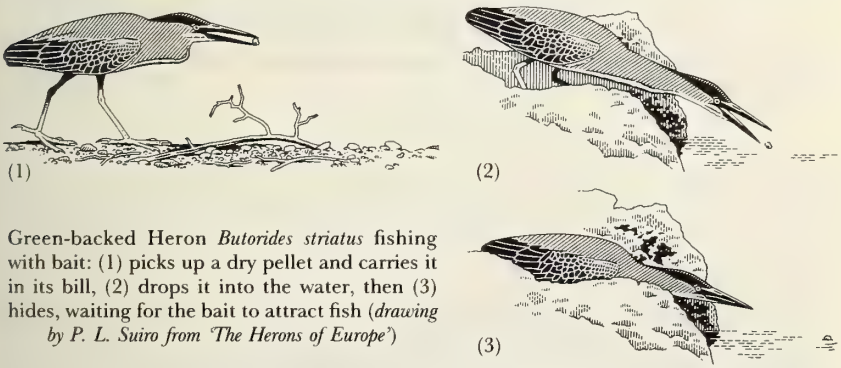
Nick Riddiford and Paul V. Harvey, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU

Reviews

The Herons of Europe. By Claire Voisin. Illustrated by G. Brusewitz, P. L. Suiro & F. Desbordes. T. & A. D. Poyser, London, 1991. 364 pages; four colour plates; 83 line-drawings. £22.50.

Wot! Not another book on herons? (There seems to have been a spate recently, the appeal of this group obviously almost matching that of owls.) This, however, is not just another book about herons. It is something rather special.

With the look and 'feel' of a traditional Poyser, the contents also match up to the very best volumes in the distinctive white dust-jackets. The author, Dr Claire Voisin, clearly has a love of the subject, as well as very wide-ranging knowledge. This is far from being a mere rehash of old material, organised into potted accounts of each species. There are chapters on each of Europe's nine breeding species, but there are also a further nine chapters on subjects such as classification, origin, breeding behaviour, habitat, feeding behaviour, and protection. The reader is likely, time and again, to come across the sorts of facts which intrigue, surprise or amaze. Whether or not herons are your especial interest, this book will provide fascinating reading, as well as being a useful work of reference.



Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus* fishing with bait: (1) picks up a dry pellet and carries it in its bill, (2) drops it into the water, then (3) hides, waiting for the bait to attract fish (*drawing by P. L. Suiro from 'The Herons of Europe'*)

It is not only well produced, interesting and well written, but also superbly illustrated: the evocative chapter headings and four colour plates are by the Swedish master, Gunnar Brusewitz, and within the text there is a splendid scattering of behavioural drawings by P. L. Suiro.

In all respects, this book is a match for any previous Poyser, and is as readable, enjoyable, informative and attractive as Hilary Fry's *The Bee-eaters* (1984). I can give no higher praise.

J. T. R. SHARROCK

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology. Edited by Michael Brooke & Tim Birkhead. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1991. 362 pages; 223 colour plates; 6 black-and-white plates; numerous illustrations and diagrams. £24.95.

At first glance, this is another attractive-looking, large-format bird book for the insatiable popular market. It does not go directly for the coffee-table niche: coloured illustrations are abundant, but most are less than postcard-sized. The majority of the paper is covered by words, with very large margins, boxed snippets on tinted backgrounds, and even graphs and tables.

The writing is by a collection of authors, most of whom are active in their fields, and eminent. As a result, the book is up to date and provides good, clear discussions on a range

of subjects, especially those which are currently fashionable. It would be possible to read from cover to cover, since the arrangement is in 11 distinct chapters. Contributions from different authors have been spliced into this format, which makes for some discontinuity of style, but avoids the more traditional format for an encyclopedia.

I read a selection of topics and, without fail, found them interesting, but they were very variable in their depth of coverage. There are no formal references, so it would be difficult to find additional detail on a particular point. Further reading is recommended chapter by chapter: these are mainly books, together with a small number of papers on very specific topics, whose citations did not survive in the text. Especially when findings are reported to the detail of a figure, table or particular study, I should have liked to have been able to find the original paper.

The most distinctive feature of the *Cambridge Encyclopedia* is that it is an encyclopedia of ornithology rather than of birds. The difference is the greater weight given to the way in which ornithologists have discovered what we know. Exemplary studies, especially those with an experimental element, are described in some detail. Authors have tried to address 'How?' and 'Why?' questions, as well as describing straight facts.

This book would appeal to those with an enquiring inclination, but no great experience of birds. On casual dipping, they might well find sufficient of interest to fire them to learn more about ornithology and possibly to read much of the book. It could be used as a reference work, but *A Dictionary of Birds* (1985) would be an alternative with its more thorough coverage and indexing of subjects and its inclusion of references. Of the two, the *Cambridge Encyclopedia* offers the better read. At today's expectation, the price is reasonable for the size and quality of product. Recommended.

COLIN J. BIBBY

Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall. Second edn. By David Norman & Vic Tucker. Illustrated by Peter Harrison & Steve Bird. Christopher Helm, London, 1991. 307 pages; 38 line-drawings; 62 maps. Paperback £11.95.

This book, first published in 1984 (see 'Short review' *Brit. Birds* 77: 639), was the start of a series of 'where to watch' bird guides. Having been asked to write the review as County Recorder for a nearby county, I will say I have always had mixed feelings about such books and have therefore never read one before. The introductory section includes birdwatching areas, listed under habitat types, which are awarded one to three stars. Details of 70 sites are given—if a pelagic seabird trip can be classified as such—including 16 additional sites from the first edition, most of the latter being upgraded from the Appendix. Each site has headings of 'Habitat', 'Species', 'Timing', 'Access' and 'Calendar'. Included in individual chapters are maps covering all major sites, but there is none for additional sites, which have been linked to an appropriate major site. Site accounts vary in length from 19 pages (sub-divided into six sites) for the Dartmoor area to about a page for most of the additional sites. The species accounts are very interesting and contain a lot of information, but the value of identification hints every now and again is questionable and, indeed, at times is mildly irritating; for example, Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* of Scandinavian origin and Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* are all described as 'pale-fronted', while the calls of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* are given both as 'seven notes' and 'multiple whistling'. Also, owing to the authors' differing styles, there are inconsistencies in the way birds from different regions are named; for example 'an American species . . . Pectoral Sandpiper [*Calidris melanotos*]' and, annoyingly, 'American Pectoral Sandpiper'. A minor error refers to pairs of Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*: so far as I am aware, they do not form pairs. Illustrated by Peter Harrison and Steve Bird, most of the line-drawings are quite pleasing, but a few fail totally to convey the true look of the bird. These minor criticisms apart I found the book very informative, interesting to read and well researched. If you want to 'do your own thing', however, buy it to see the sites to avoid, especially those with three stars; I suspect there are many more places not mentioned which are well worth a visit.

BRIAN RABBITTS

Short reviews

Fantastic Journeys: the marvels of animal migration. Consultant Editor: Robin Baker. (Merehurst, London, 1991. 240 pages. £25.00) Interesting, authoritative texts, written in a very readable style, and scores of stunning photographs combine to make this popular, 'coffee-table' book on migration (other animals as well as birds) both entertaining and educational. First-rate in its class.

The Mitchell Beazley Pocket Guide to Birds of Prey of the World. By Martin Walters. (Octopus Publishing Group, London, 1991. 192 pages. £6.99) Another useful addition to the 'Pocket Guide' series. All 295 species of raptor are illustrated in colour, including flight patterns where relevant. The accompanying text explains their main identification features, basic ecology, world distribution and conservation status. The illustrations are rather simplified, and immature plumages are not always illustrated. This is, however, a very comprehensive guide, and much cheaper than any of the alternatives. [PETER M. ELLIS]

Mystery photographs

175 A single glance at last month's mystery photograph (plate 8, repeated here) should have been sufficient to alert the observer that we are dealing with a species of cormorant or shag *Phalacrocorax*. This genus is of ancient lineage, combining features such as a long neck and bill, bare facial skin and an elongated body to give a unique, somewhat prehistoric appearance. Globally, the genus contains 30-40 species, but in the Western Palearctic we need concern ourselves with only six of these.



Our mystery bird, depicted swimming, has a relatively well-proportioned feel to it, except perhaps for the steep forehead topped with a pronounced tuft. This last feature alone makes our task a simple one, for only one of the West Palearctic species has such a crest on its forehead: our bird is a Shag *P. aristotelis*. The prominence of the forehead tuft denotes a bird well into its second calendar-year, a fact confirmed by the narrow and pointed shape of at least some covert and scapular feathers (indicating retained juvenile plumage); the all-dark plumage reinforces the approximate age of the bird (first-winters are much paler) in a genus

in which accurate ageing is generally problematic owing to an ongoing body moult from juvenile to two-year old.

In addition, the mystery bird's proportions and head shape are quite unlike those of the round-headed, short-necked Pygmy Cormorant *P. pygmeus* or the more elongated Long-tailed Cormorant *P. africanus*, while the larger Socotra Cormorant *P. nigrogularis*, an endemic of the Persian Gulf region, has a slimmer neck and less angular forehead (and, incidentally, pale irides at all ages).

A much more likely confusion species in most of the West Palearctic region is Cormorant *P. carbo*. Key differences between the two species at all ages are size, structure, head shape and bare parts. Shag is smaller, slighter and more sinuous than Cormorant, with a subtly different head shape characterised by a steep forehead (although this can appear flatter when diving); its bill is slim and parallel-edged, lacks a heavy-hooked tip, and forms a neat narrow gape line below the eye; and, as our bird clearly shows, the eye is surrounded by feathering which extends to the base of the upper mandible. In contrast, the Cormorant's powerful wedge-shaped bill is exaggerated by a varying degree (always more than on Shag) of facial skin. Another, more subtle, pointer towards Shag is the uniform curve of the back (Cormorant quite often shows a higher 'stern'). Following events at Billingham, Cleveland, in January-April 1989, however, we must now also consider another species, the Nearctic Double-crested Cormorant *P. auritus*, so it's back to bare parts, with particular emphasis on the 'face'. Double-crested, as well as being larger and having a more elongated head shape, also exhibits a thicker, strongly hooked bill and, in contrast to Shag, extensive bare skin above the gape line, forming a prominent loral stripe (features which also apply broadly to Cormorant, though that species' bare facial skin is less orange in colour).

In the field, certain behavioural niceties come to the fore, such as the Shag's deliberate leap clear of the water prior to diving (though Cormorant may sometimes do this, and Shags occasionally omit doing so). When moving over open sea, Shags invariably hug the surface while Cormorants often fly quite high. A further trait of Shag is its apparent tameness on inland waters, usually brought about by exhaustion following strong onshore gales. Such individuals, if handled, can often be readily identified by counting the rectrices (bearing in mind any tail moult): Shag has 12 and Cormorant has 14.

For the land-locked birdwatcher of central England, the Shag holds a particular appeal, often occurring in atypical surroundings—such as our mystery bird, photographed by Rob Dazley on 4th March 1988 on a tiny mill-pond at Stotfold, Bedfordshire. Recently, Shags have been noted in Bedfordshire roosting on bridges in Bedford town centre and even waddling along a busy street in Luton; but surely nothing could be so bizarre as a 'wreck' of 20-30 which were found on the evening of 24th January 1958 at Shillington Church, Bedfordshire, perched on the building and on the graveyard tombstones.

PAUL TRODD
17 Northall Road, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire LU6 2DQ



31. Mystery photograph 176. Identify the species. Answer next month

Notes



Plumage variation of Clamorous Reed Warblers in Israel The Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* is represented in the Western Palearctic by the nominate race, which breeds in Egypt, Jordan

32. Dark first-winter Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Israel, October 1989 (*William Laird*)



The inclusion of plates 31-34 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.



33. First-winter Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (left) compared with dark first-winter Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus* (same individual as in plate 32), Israel, October 1989 (*William Laird*)

34. 'Typical', pale first-winter Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Israel, October 1989 (*William Laird*)



and Israel; farther east, the race *brunnescens*, which occurs in Iraq and Iran, is less rufous above and paler below than the nominate race. The upperparts of those breeding in Israel tend to be olive-brown to dark brown in colour.

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Alerstam *Bird Migration* (CUP) £55.00 ☐
Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP) £22.50 ☐
Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins) £14.99 ☐
*Baker *Fantastic Journeys: the marvels of animal migration* (Merehurst) £25.00 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm) £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐
Bub *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding* (Cornell) £49.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* 4th edn (Ibis) £19.00 ☐
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond) (DUE SOON) £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser) £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
*Fry *Bee-eaters* (Poyser) £22.00 ☐
Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £85.00 ☐ vol. 2 £85.00 ☐ vol. 3 £89.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser) £18.50 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00) £10.00 ☐
Hilty & Brown *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia* (Princeton) Paperback £30.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press) Hardback £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP) £19.95 ☐
Johnsgard *Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse: birds of dry places* (OUP) £60.00 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £24.00 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £35.00 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
*Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser) (DUE FEBRUARY) £18.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Newman *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa* (Southern Books) Paperback £15.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xii to complete your order.

British BirdShop (continued)

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

*Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm)	Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (British Birds) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95)	£12.95 ☐
*Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver)	£18.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman)	£21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser)	£17.00 ☐
RAOU *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU/OUP)	£125.00 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.)	vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP)	£40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens)	£15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser)	£24.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP)	£60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991	£75.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm)	Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion)	Paperback £8.75 ☐
Stiles & Skutch *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* (Helm)	Paperback £35.00 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990	£22.99 ☐
van Rhijn & Willis *The Ruff* (Poyser)	£18.50 ☐
*Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser)	£22.50 ☐
*Walters *The Mitchell Beazley Pocket Guide to Birds of Prey of the World* (Octopus)	£6.99 ☐
Warham *The Petrels: their ecology and breeding systems* (Academic Press)	£29.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Diseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France)	£46.00 ☐
Yekutiel *Raptors in Israel* (IBWC)	Paperback £10.00 ☐

British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) £6.95 ☐

Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack)	£13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette)	£5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes)	£29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs	£49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING FEBRUARY 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro a/c no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name..... Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no.
TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**

Recent work has, however, revealed a considerable variation in plumage, ranging from individuals which are similar in colour to Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus* of the nominate race to a small number of strikingly dark individuals. Within this range of colour variation, there is a gradation from light to dark, with intermediates.

Typical individuals have the upperparts darker brown than those of Great Reed Warbler, the throat off-white, and the underparts washed with sandy-buff or brownish-buff, darkest on the sides of the breast and on the flanks. Their underparts are generally similar to those of Great Reed, but many are more deeply coloured; infrequently, there are some thin, dark shaft-streaks on the lower throat and upper breast.

The darkest individuals have the upperparts and underparts concolorously dark brown, although the underparts often possess a slightly warmer, ochre or sepia quality. The underparts are uniformly dark from the chin to the undertail-coverts; slightly-less-dark, intermediate individuals show a lighter throat. The supercilium is very weak, or absent. These dark birds appear to possess all-dark bills, as shown in the photographs (plates 32 & 33). This may suggest a degree of melanism, but some dark individuals do exhibit a 'standard' horn/flesh-coloured area on the lower mandible.

Although immatures may be more deeply coloured below than adults, the occurrence of darker individuals is not related to age. Some of the darkest individuals have been trapped at a site near the Dead Sea, by Rami Mizrachi, Adi Gencz and others, and have been retrapped in subsequent years. I trapped a very dark individual at Eilat in autumn 1989 (plates 32 & 33).

An examination of the skin collection at Tel-Aviv University Museum confirmed the considerable variation: it contained one very dark and two slightly-less-dark individuals out of a total of 30 specimens. It would appear that, within the plumage variation of this species in Israel, a small proportion of individuals is uniformly dark. Trapping and field observations suggest that the vast majority of individuals are light to intermediate, resembling the bird in plate 34, small numbers are intermediate to dark, and very small numbers (perhaps 5% of the population) are uniformly all-dark, resembling the bird in plates 32 and 33.

I should like to express my gratitude to the International Birdwatching Center Eilat, and especially to David Yekutiel; also to Rami Mizrachi, Adi Gencz, Stephen Northwood and Paul Prior; to Zila Shariv, for allowing me access to the collection of Tel-Aviv University Museum on many occasions; and to Kipod & Merav Gellert and Hadoram Shirihai.

WILLIAM LAIRD

39 Knocksallagh Park, Greenisland, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT38 8SS, Northern Ireland

In commenting on this contribution, K. E. Vinicombe reported that his notes on the only three individuals of this species that he had seen in Israel stated that 'two had supercilia up to the eye; one had no supercilia at all and an all-dark bill.' As he commented: 'Now I understand this discrepancy!' EDS

Sunning by a Willow Warbler On 5th August 1988, in my suburban garden in Leicester, I identified a visiting first-year Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. On 6th, a gorgeous warm day with total blue sky and strong sun, I noted, for the first time that dull summer, an outbreak of sunning behaviour from the resident passerines in the garden (Blackbirds *Turdus merula*, Dunnocks *Prunella modularis*, House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* and a juvenile Robin *Erithacus rubecula*). At 11.58 GMT, checking from an upstairs window, I found the Willow Warbler also sunning. Based in the shade of an apple tree whose branches swept part of the corrugated-iron roof of the shed next door, it would come out into the open from time to time over the next ten minutes and settle on the roof, just clear of cover, side-on to the sun in what I have called the 'lateral' sunning posture (Simmons 1986). Leaning away from the sun, it had its feathers ruffled (especially those of the rump), head held back and canted to expose the throat, bill open, tail twisted around, and the wing fanned down over its flank into the 'full-lateral' position or, at times, opened still more into the



35 & 36. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* sunning, Staffordshire, July 1985 (*A. T. Moffett*)



'expanded-lateral'. At 12.45 hours, the warbler had returned and was back sunning in the same way and at the same site (a much-frequented local 'hot-spot' for sunning birds), this time farther out on the roof and in company with a sunning Dunnock and two sunning House Sparrows.

This was the first time I had seen a Willow Warbler sunning and I know of only two previous records (Harrison 1946; Moffett 1983), although in neither case was the posture described. A. T. Moffett, however, informed me (verbally) that the bird he photographed sunning was in what I call the 'full-spreadeagle' posture, with both wings and the tail exposed (Simmons 1986). The Willow Warbler, therefore, as would be expected, adopts both the sunning postures common to the majority of passerines.

K. E. L. Simmons
66 Romway Road, Leicester LE5 5SB

REFERENCES

Harrison, J. M. 1946. Sun-bathing by birds. *Brit. Birds* 39: 276.
Moffett, A. T. 1983. Photographer replies. *Birds* 9 (7): 72.
Simmons, K. E. L. 1986. *The Sunning Behaviour of Birds: a guide for ornithologists*. Bristol.

Cannibalism by Magpies On the afternoon of 13th August 1988, in Shrewton Folly, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, my attention was suddenly drawn to the loud, raucous call of a Magpie *Pica pica*. The call, from about 250 m away, was continuous and finally gave me the impression of anguish and desperation. I approached the source of the sound discreetly through the trees, expecting to find that a fox *Vulpes vulpes* had taken the Magpie. Instead, I found a live Magpie held down by two other Magpies and literally being pecked to death. The victim was lying on its back and trying in vain to fend off its attackers with its feet. This afforded the two aggressors easy access to the underbelly: they were attacking ruthlessly, and through binoculars I witnessed the commotion for several seconds. I eventually moved forward to inspect the mortally injured Magpie, which showed no signs of disease or previous incapacity; it had been badly injured all over, in particular around the head. I retreated to my observation point to watch the predators return to feast on one of their own kind, which they did while occasionally fighting with each other. It was a scene I had never witnessed before and have not previously seen described in the literature. There is a profusion of rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* in this area and no shortage of food for Magpies, particularly in the summer months.

A. J. Crease
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Lumsden Barracks, Fallingbostel, BFPO 38

Dr T. R. Birkhead has commented as follows: 'This is typical of the way Magpies fight: grappling with the feet and the one on top delivering hefty blows with the bill. Fights are rare, but I have seen several serious ones similar to that described here, but never resulting in the immediate death of the victim. I was also told of another incident where, following a fight (between two individuals), the loser was "left for dead", unable to fly, with several broken primaries. Captain Crease's observations are unusual in two respects: I have never seen two Magpies attacking another one, and never heard of Magpies eating the conspecific they have killed. All the serious fights I have seen have been over territories. Usually an intruding pair attacks the territory-owning pair. Usually, when such fights occur, it is male versus male and female versus female. Some of the fights I witnessed resulted in territory-owners being

evicted and the new birds taking over the territory. The evicted birds usually disappeared (presumed dead); even if they didn't disappear, they were "genetically dead"—they lived in the non-breeding flock for the rest of their lives, never regaining breeding status.

'The cannibalism reported here is grisly, but not unexpected. Magpies sometimes kill mice or small birds in order to eat them.' EDS

'Third bird' copulating at Carrion Crow nest Territorial pairs of crows (Corvidae) sometimes tolerate an intruder, which is referred to as a 'third bird'. In the Western Palearctic, this behaviour has been reported for Raven *Corvus corax*, Carrion Crow *C. corone*, Jay *Garrulus glandarius*, Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus* and (probably) Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* (Coombs, 1978, *The Crows*). In the case of the Carrion Crow, third birds are non-territorial males and they are driven from the territory before the pair nests. Between October 1985 and May 1988, a partially albino Carrion Crow, which we named 'Snowy', was observed on the South Downs near Lewes, East Sussex. Until the end of 1986, Snowy was a member of a non-territorial flock, and in April 1986 it joined three other crows in robbing a Carrion Crow's nest near Castle Hill NNR. From January to August 1987, Snowy was regularly seen in the company of the pair defending the nest that had been robbed; it was twice seen to help drive away intruders, but was sometimes attacked by the pair, especially near the nest. The male of the pair became totally intolerant of Snowy during early April, but Snowy copulated with the female on 12th and 18th April, and the latter laid her first egg on 16th April. Once incubation had started, the male stopped attacking Snowy, which repeatedly drove other Carrion Crows, Rooks *C. frugilegus* and Magpies *Pica pica* away from the nest area and also fed the chicks (seven out of 33 observed feeds); the only times he was seen feeding the hen, however, was before copulating with her (two out of 54 food transfers to the hen). On 23rd August, Snowy was seen feeding with the territorial pair and three juveniles. By 21st September, only Snowy and a single female were present. Snowy continued to defend the territory until 23rd May 1988, when he and his mate were shot and their nest destroyed.

I know of no other records of third birds helping at the nest in the case of Carrion Crows (although it occurs among Siberian Jays and is suspected for Ravens), nor of male third birds of any crow species copulating with the female.

DAVID HARPER
School of Biological Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, East Sussex BN1 9QG

Birds' premonition of earthquake The note by Jean D. Garrod on birds' premonition of rain (*Brit. Birds* 82: 117) recalled an observation I made on 19th July 1984, the last date on which a significant earthquake was recorded in the British Isles. In the Dublin area on the Irish east coast, the earthquake occurred at 06.56 GMT, the epicentre being about 20 km below the surface at approximately 53°00′N 04°40′W (close to Anglesey, Gwynedd), and registering 5.4 on the Richter Scale. During the few minutes prior to the earthquake, I was lying awake in my bed in the attic bedroom of my house in Bray, Co. Wicklow (20 km south of Dublin), listening to the morning bird-song (mainly of Blackbirds *Turdus merula*,

Robins *Erithacus rubecula* and Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs*) and contemplating getting up, when I noticed a sudden hush as all birds stopped singing. In retrospect, I estimate that there was a full 8-10 seconds' lapse between the cessation of song and the first approaching rumblings of the earthquake. Initially, there was only the rapidly approaching sound, similar to that made by heavy articulated trucks on narrow roads; but I could then sense a rattling vibration moving quickly from the house foundations up the walls and, particularly, the chimney. It occurred to me, having read various reports that seismologists in earthquake-prone countries such as China were making some progress with earthquake prediction using animal-behaviour indicators, that the 8-10 second 'warning' given by the cessation of bird-song in this case might have enabled me, had I realised the significance of it, to rush out to the safety of an open space. After a hesitant re-start, bird-song was again in full swing by 07.05 GMT.

My thanks are due to Clare Horan of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies for details about the earthquake event.

OSCAR J. MERNE
Wildlife Service, Sidmonton Place, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

Letters

Status of Marsh Warbler in Norway Kelsey *et al.* (1989), in their interesting paper on the Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* in Britain, summarised the species' northward expansion into the St Petersburg region and in Finland and Sweden, but made no mention of its expansion in Norway.

The first accepted Norwegian record of Marsh Warbler concerned an autumn migrant trapped on the west coast in 1967 (Myklebust & Folkestad 1969). A few more records followed in the Oslofjorden area, until first breeding occurred in 1970 (Aronsen 1970). Records then rapidly increased, and from 1988 onwards breeding records have no longer needed to be considered by the Norwegian Rarities Committee (Bentz 1988). In 1987, Viggo Ree estimated the Norwegian breeding population as in the range 10-99 pairs, distributed from southeastern Norway down the south coast west to county Vest-Agder. Personally, I would put the figure in the upper half of this estimate, possibly even beyond it.

ØIVIND SYVERTSEN
Nesbruveien 19, N-1361 Billingstadsletta, Norway

REFERENCES

ARONSEN, A. 1970. Hekkende myrsanger ved Tønsberg. [Breeding Marsh Warblers at Tønsberg.] *Sterna* 9: 193-196.

BENTZ, P.-G. 1988. Sjeldne fugler i Norge i 1986. [Rare birds in Norway in 1986.] *Vår Fuglefauna* 11: 87-95.

KELSEY, M. G., GREEN, G. H., GARNETT, M. C., & HAYMAN, P. V. 1989. Marsh Warblers in Britain. *Brit. Birds* 82: 239-256.

MYKLEBUST, P.-S., & FOLKESTAD, A. O. 1969. Myrsongar på Hareid. [Marsh Warbler at Hareid.] *Sterna* 8: 303-306.

REE, V. 1987. Statusoversikt for norske arters utbredelse og bestandstall for hekking og overvintring. [Status survey of distribution and population estimates for breeding and wintering of Norwegian species.] In PERRINS, C., 1987, *Europas Fugleliv* [Norwegian edition of *Collins New Generation Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*]. Oslo.

The benefit of contact lenses to birdwatchers with sight defects The latest binoculars and telescopes survey (*Brit. Birds* 84: 267-282) showed that 38.9% of respondents wear spectacles for birdwatching. As is well known, spectacles markedly reduce the field of view when binoculars are placed in front of them, a problem which is only partly solved by the use of retractable eye-cups. Lifting the spectacles to allow binoculars to be placed up to the eyes is an alternative preferred by some, but the spectacles are then subject to additional strain and valuable milliseconds are wasted. Very myopic individuals also often find that without the spectacle lens the binoculars will not focus to infinity. There are other problems: spectacles are poor at correcting peripheral vision, and soon become misted or rain-soaked in very cold or wet conditions.

Several years ago I switched to using soft contact lenses and have found them of great benefit when birdwatching, or indeed while using any optical instrument. Apart from being decidedly more comfortable, they outperform my spectacles in every other respect. Binoculars and telescopes now offer the maximum field of view and, because an image formed with a contact lens is about 5% larger than with spectacles, they are better at discriminating distant objects or when scanning the horizon. Peripheral vision is much improved and there are no more problems with misting. Although they are slightly more expensive than spectacles and more care is required in their use, I would strongly urge any sight-defective birdwatcher who can do so to switch to contact lenses.

A. G. DUFF

4 Amberley Close, Keinton Mandeville, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6EU

Prolonged use, or use in dusty conditions, can create problems for users of contact lenses. These are also not a practical alternative for those with certain eye defects, including those who need bifocals. Expert advice is clearly essential; Dr Duff's experience and recommendation will doubtless encourage a number of readers to consult their opticians. EDS

Seventy-five years ago...

'ON December 26, 1916, near Oswestry, the ground was frozen very hard and Snipe were numerous wherever there were small streams of running water or unfrozen bogs. I happened to be ferreting near one of these patches. At the sound of my gun, a Snipe (*Gallinago g. gallinago*) began calling "gig-wick" and kept it up for some ten to twenty minutes. Hitherto I have considered this note one which is essentially a breeding-time note.' (*Brit. Birds* 10: 228, February 1917).

ICBP news

Romanian mission In early October 1991, John Bishop and Richard Howard (BTO President) completed a 3,000-mile (4,800-km) round trip to Romania on behalf of ICBP. Their mission was to deliver equipment to the fledgling Romanian Ornithological Society (ROS).

The journey was an exciting one. With a *Range Rover* overflowing with electrical goods, such as a typewriter, photocopier and duplicator, they anticipated some intensive questioning at the Romanian border, and had mentally prepared appropriate responses. But the border guard, on hearing that they were taking equipment to help protect wildlife, waved them through with a smile and an approving comment. Perhaps this is indicative of the increased awareness of, and importance attached to, environmental issues in Romania.

With 12 threatened bird species and 24 Important Bird Areas, Romania certainly needs to be aware of its wildlife and the threats to it. The ROS was formed early in 1990, shortly after the revolution, and with extremely limited resources has already reached a membership of 150. Dan Munteanu is the dedicated man at the helm, and, in the summer of 1991, three summer camps for young birdwatchers were run, meetings were held and bird counts and field research conducted.

Progress so far has shown that there is the enthusiasm and interest in Romania to make the ROS a success. What is lacking is cash. With many Romanians holding down three jobs and struggling to make ends meet, the possibilities for fund-raising are limited. That is why support from Western Europe is so essential to get the ROS, and bird protection societies in many other Eastern European countries, sufficiently well established to look after the region's birds.

ICBP's *'Wings Across Europe'* is co-ordinating support from the RSPB, Vogelbescherming, Schweizer Vogelschutz and other organisations, to build up non-governmental organisations in Eastern and Central Europe.

If you would like to become a supporter of the ROS, send a cheque for £10 to ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ (please mark the envelope 'ROS'). Supporters will receive an annual newsletter. For more information on the ROS, write to ICBP at the above address, or phone John Bishop on Airshow (0252) 702832.

GEORGINA GREEN
International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Request

Photographic requests For forthcoming papers in *British Birds*, we would especially welcome the offer of photographs (colour prints, black-and-white prints or original colour transparencies) of the following:

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*
King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*
Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*
Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus*
Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*
Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*
Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*
Two-barred Warbler *P. plumbeitarsus*
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia*
Narcissus Flycatcher *F. narcissina*
Mugimaki Flycatcher *F. mugimaki*
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*
Blackburnian Warbler *D. fusca*
Magnolia Warbler *D. magnolia*
Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Please send prints or transparencies to Dr J. T. R. Sharrock or Mrs S. D. Cobban, British Birds, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

As a non-profit-making magazine published for the benefit of ornithology, *British Birds* makes no payment to photographers (or artists or authors). We are, therefore, especially grateful to those whose work appears within the pages of *BB*. We are always happy to forward to photographers and artists any enquiries from readers concerning the purchase of their work; please address letters or postcards to the person concerned, c/o British Birds, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Announcement

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Baker *Fantastic Journeys: the marvels of animal migration*
*Fry *Bee-eaters*
*Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall*
*Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes*
*Voisin *The Herons of Europe*
*Walters *The Mitchell Beazley Pocket Guide to Birds of Prey of the World*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xi & xii.

News and comment

Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Tragedy in Croatia As this is written, in November 1991, there are some hopeful signs of a ceasefire in Yugoslavia. Who knows what the situation will be by the time you read this? In October, we received a poignant and emotional letter from the staff of the Institute of Ornithology in Croatia, detailing the damage being done to four National Reserves and the threats faced by many others, to say nothing of the Croatian countryside in general. *British Birds* wrote at once to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, expressing concern on behalf of British ornithologists. A thoughtful and sympathetic reply came back, but of course it had to point out the realities of the situation in Yugoslavia and the extreme difficulty of doing anything to help until UN or EC action, or the warring factions themselves, stop the fighting and the destruction. It is heartbreaking and frustrating to feel so helpless, but we take this opportunity of sending our best wishes to all our friends and colleagues in Croatia—indeed, in the whole of Yugoslavia—and of expressing our sincere hopes that the civil war will soon be over. One day soon, perhaps, we shall be able to help them to restore at least some of what they have lost.

Extinct duck rediscovered? Hopes are rising that the crested Shelduck *Tadorna cristata*, long feared extinct, has been found in a remote region of southwest China. A report in a Chinese natural history magazine suggesting that it survives in the mountains of Yunnan Province is especially exciting because it was always a little known species, with only a handful of sightings ever recorded. Although obscure, it is a culturally important bird because it is depicted in classical Japanese paintings, many of which, ominously perhaps, were destroyed during the Second World War. The magazine *Da Ziran* ('Nature') has reported that birds answering the Crested Shelduck's description have been seen near the town of Zhaotong and, while the identification is not certain, the report is arousing considerable interest among ornithologists. There have been only three definite records in the last 50 years, the most recent dating back to March 1971 when the species was seen in North Korea. It hardly helped that the main hope for the species' survival lay in the ultra-sensitive Chinese-Soviet-North Korean border area, which has long been closed to outsiders and where birdwatching is, for all practical purposes, banned. But hope was not completely abandoned and, in recent years, ornithologists in China, the Soviet Union, Japan and North and South Korea have launched a hunt to bring this spectacular bird 'back from the dead'. At last, the search seems to have borne fruit. A group of environmental officials from Zhaotong believe that up to 20 Crested Shelducks may survive near a remote reservoir, 3,000 m above sea level, where local peasants say they have seen ducks matching

pictures of the shelduck. The officials searched for the birds themselves and, in December 1990, caught sight (through telescopes) of ducks swimming in the reservoir which could well have been Crested Shelducks. They looked right—but it was too misty to be certain . . . It is, perhaps, a good omen that the area in question, known as Dashanbao, has the world's biggest population of the extremely rare Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* (around 700 individuals), which was discovered only two years ago. Perhaps Dashanbao, a desolate region largely undisturbed by man, has more surprises up its sleeve? (*Contributed by Michael Rank*)

Forktail-Leica and Relict Gulls The Relict Gull *Larus relictus*, one of the least-known gulls in the world, has recently been the object of a study carried out by He Fen-qi and Zhang Yin-sun of the Department of Zoology, Academica Sinica, Beijing, and funded by the Forktail-Leica Award. Remarkably, until the breeding grounds of the Relict Gull were discovered in 1968, over a century of ornithological investigations in central and eastern Asia had failed to reveal the existence of this species. Only a few breeding sites have been found, it is listed as globally threatened by the ICBP and its breeding ecology is very poorly known. In spring 1990, He Fen-qi and Zhang Yin-sun discovered one of the largest known colonies at Taolimiao-Alashan Nur at Ordos in Inner Mongolia. In 1991, they set out to study the ecology of this colony and search for new sites. The original colony was slightly smaller, with 491 nests as opposed to 581 in 1990. This was compensated for by an increase in clutch size to 2.52 (2.19 in 1990), meaning that the colony produced almost the same number of eggs. Disturbance by Upland Buzzards *Buteo hemilasius* delayed the hatch, the rate of which was substantially down—67% compared with 100% in 1990. There was also high mortality of chicks, with at least 250 found dead. This was apparently due to human disturbance. A survey of other suitable sites in the Mausu desert, eastern Ordos, produced another breeding colony of 624 nests and nearly 500 non-breeding individuals. The Oriental Bird Club is grateful to *Leica Camera* for providing the funding that has made this important work possible. (*Contributed by Dr Nigel Lindsey*)

Hardboiled eggs Successful experiments carried out by the Game Conservancy at the ARC Wildfowl Centre, Great Linford, Buckinghamshire, seem to have resulted in a humane and effective solution to the problem of controlling numbers of Canada Geese *Branta canadensis*. The removal of eggs from nests does not work—the birds simply relay—so, for the past two seasons, clutches have been replaced by either hardboiled goose eggs or wooden dummies. The Canadas continued to sit and, of course, produced no young. The geese are widely regarded as pests on farmland and a growing nuisance in assorted public places; it is predicted that their UK numbers could rise to well over 100,000 individuals by the end of the century. Control seems a logical step—but only where there are *real* problems: calls from some quarters for massive national culls owe more to a dislike of Canada Geese than anything else and are fast promoting the bird to the position of Public Enemy Number Two (after the unfortunate Magpie *Pica pica*). Control is permitted only under licence from the agricultural departments and licences will be granted only where there is proof of crop damage or public nuisance.

'Bird Talk' This is the title of an amazing leaflet and poster-set issued by the Pet Bureau in response to the RSPB-RSPCA-Environmental Investigation Agency campaign to ban the trade in wild-caught birds in the European Community. You would have to read it all to appreciate how absurd much of it is, but the following extract will give you the general flavour: 'Once established, captive birds live much longer than their wild counterparts. Unlike the latter, birds living in cages and aviaries are protected against predators, food shortages and bad weather. The young of most free-living wild birds die within a few weeks or months of leaving the nest; the only survivors are just sufficient to replace the adults that die before the next breeding season. Compare the fate of our native wild birds. A total of about 3,000 birds, representing a wide variety of species from all over the world, are imported per week into Britain. In the space of a week in Britain, at least 750,000 wild birds are killed by cats, as many more by road traffic and a greater number by field sports enthusiasts.'

Being a wild bird is obviously pure Hell. Thank goodness we have the Pet Bureau to take them into captivity instead.

'Rare Bird Alert' message paging Since last November, birders have been able to receive up-to-the-minute rare-bird news on the screen of a pocket pager.

The spreading of news about rarities has speeded from the letter communications of the nineteenth century, to personal telephone calls amongst friends, then semi-organised information centres (such as 'Nancy's' at Cley), followed by one and latterly several commercial phone-lines (some run for profit, others to support conservation charities). Now we have the individual bleeper, with its messages shown on a screen, which can be carried anywhere, providing instantaneous notification of the latest exciting discovery. Those who provide this service for the ultra-keen twitcher point out that users no longer have to rely on luckily phoning a telephone service just after (rather than just before!) a major rarity is discovered or on a friend remembering to tip them off before haring off themselves, and that the cost is not high compared with making several '0898 calls' every day, just in case something good has been found since the last call. The fixed monthly payments range up to £25.00 plus VAT. For more details, contact Rare Bird Alert, 40 Olney Street, Norwich NR2 2EB; phone Norwich (0603) 767799.

The team responsible for Rare Bird Alert includes well-known birder Dick Filby, so it will doubtless be as circumspect regarding sensitive sites, local worries concerning access, and avoiding disturbance of breeding birds as are the various telephone-based information services, which are gradually gaining a reputation for taking a generally responsible attitude.

Eilat Festival The International Birdwatching Center Eilat is organising its third Spring Migration Festival, during 20th-30th March 1992, with guided visits to the main migration 'hot spots', such as the Kibbutz fields, the Yotvata oasis and the Mountains of the Moon, desert tours by four-wheel-drive vehicles and organised trips to see local specialities and spectacles, such as the arrival of Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii* to drink at dusk. The ringing station will be open to visitors daily during 07.00-08.30. A three-day Negev tour follows, during 31st March to 2nd April.

For full details, write to David Yekutiel at the IBCE, PO Box 774, Eilat, Israel.

Polish initiative Zenon Lewartowski has written to tell us of the existence of the North-Podlasie Society for Bird Protection (PTOP) and its journal, *For Bird Protection.* The journal is in English and the Society's motto, intriguingly, is 'English is the hope of the world'. The newsletter from Zenon contains more information than we can easily summarise here—any interested reader who writes (with SAE) to us at the 'News and comment' address will be sent a free photocopy.

New publications We recommend two very different but equally useful new publications. *The Distribution of Breeding Seabirds in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, 1986-1990*, by Mike G. Hill, is published by the Société Guernesiaise and is available (price £3.30, including p&p) from them at Candie Gardens, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. *Finding Birds in Mallorca*, written by David Gosney, is available (price £3.00, including p&p) from Gostours, 29 Marchwood Road, Sheffield S6 5LB.

Changes at HarperCollins After two years as head of the Natural History Department, Michael Walter has decided to return to producing books through his own company, Domino Books. The new Editorial Director of the Natural History Department is Myles Archibald, who has been associated with *BB* for several years through his involvement with Bird Photograph of the Year, which is sponsored jointly by HarperCollins and Christopher Helm Publishers.

Artist at St Abbs Frederick J. Watson's workshop is now established at the Kittiwake Gallery in The Steading at St Abbs, Berwickshire. If you are travelling on the A1, you need merely to make a short diversion along the A1107 and then the B6438. Take a look at the gallery. Say you're a *BB* subscriber and Derick, or his wife Barbra, will make you especially welcome (and also tell you all the latest local bird news).

'Monthly marathon' helps spastics The hundreds of postcards which flood in to 'Fountains' from all over the world are not wasted, whether the entrants' answers in the 'Monthly marathon' competition are right or wrong. Once the results are known, the postcards are given to the Bedford and District Spastics Society, where not only are the stamps (British as well as foreign) sold

to provide funds, but the sorting of the postcards and the removal of the stamps also provides worthwhile work for those who are themselves handicapped by cerebral palsy.

The address of the national headquarters of The Spastics Society is 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Post Office OK We are often critical of the Post Office. Recently, however, a letter from Watford, postmarked 29 September 1991 and addressed to 'The British Bird Society, Wooburn (sic) Sands, Bucks' was delivered (correctly?) on 1st October 1991 to Barry Nightingale, who lives in Woburn, Bedfordshire. Is the local sorting office full of *BB* readers?

A tender tale You may not like the idea of Woodcocks *Scolopax rusticola* being shot, but we cannot resist this splendid little story, recounted by Lord Home in his recently published book, *Border Reflections*: 'I had one curious and satisfying encounter with a woodcock . . . I shot one which fell into the tender of the *Flying Scotsman*. I just had time to signal the driver as he flashed past, and he left the bird for me with his compliments with the station master at Berwick-upon-Tweed.'

Silly corner Tour companies and travel writers continue to reveal the existence of new birds. The *East Anglian Daily Times*, Martin Fisher tells us, has announced the abundance of Pigtails at Abberton Reservoir, Essex, prompting Martin's father to wonder if they actually meant Mandarins.

Several readers have told us that Pingrum Specialist Tours offers a bonanza in Turkey, including Feruuginous Duct, Glassy Ibis, Rightingale, Krup's Nuthatch, Friecrest, Oliver Tree Warbler and the newly discovered hybrid, Little Grebe Gannet (the mind boggles . . .).

Simon and Jill Warwick suggest that you might need counselling after seeing all those rarities: if so, Ussher Tours of Yorkshire offer 'various Shrinks' in Bulgaria.

Trevor Warren, about to leave for Hungary, was surprised to learn from *The Observer* that he should see Bald Eagle; less so, perhaps, that he should also look out for Black Crain.

Israeli beauties revealed Those dusky birds described by William Laird (pages 83-85) clearly bewitched our printers, who set their name as 'Glamorous Reed Warblers'. Suggestions for an appropriate scientific name will be welcomed.

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by



The back view of November's small roosting wader (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 278) was identified as belonging to:

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*	(22%)
Little Stint *C. minuta*	(17%)
Dunlin *C. alpina*	(14%)
Semipalmated Sandpiper *C. pusilla*	(12%)
Sanderling *C. alba*	(10%)
Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*	(9%)

with fewer votes for Least Sandpiper *C. minutilla*, White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis*, Baird's Sandpiper *C. bairdii*, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata* and Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

Not easy, with even some of the leading group of experts failing at this hurdle. It was a Red-necked Stint, photographed by Brian Chudleigh, in New Zealand in April 1983. The next stage in this competition to win a SUNBIRD holiday in Africa, Asia or North America appears on page 96.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



37. Fifth 'Monthly marathon' (nineteenth stage: photograph number 68). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th March 1992

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 20th December 1991 to 16th January 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Three, Upper Tamar Lake, Bude (Cornwall), 11th-13th January; two, 14th January.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* Male, Lurgan Park Lake (Co. Armagh), still present to at least 15th January.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* Female, Dromore Strand, Aughrisch (Co. Sligo), 9th January.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* Hele Bay, Ilfracombe (Devon), 22nd December to at least 16th January; two, Largo Bay (Fife), 29th December.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* White-phase individual reappeared, Akeragh Lough (Co. Kerry), 9th January.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* Second-winter, Point of Ayr (Clwyd), 20th-22nd December; first-winter, Walcott (Norfolk), 25th December to 6th January.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* First-winter, Akeragh Lough, 16th January (potential first for Ireland).

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* At least 17 in England and Wales, mainly in south-west, but two in West Yorkshire; about 12 in Ireland.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* Picked up injured, near Fraserburgh (Grampian), about 30th December.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Wexford Harbour (Co. Wexford), intermittently through December into January.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* Spurn (Humberside), 12th January.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* Dungeness (Kent), 30th-31st December.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* Fishguard (Dyfed), 4th to at least 5th January.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Twitchline' on 0891-884-501
(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to National Bird News for supplying information for this news feature.

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(including 17½% VAT)
£2.94 a line—average of 6 words
£9.98 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions for the price of 2
6 insertions for the price of 4

Copy Date
March Issue
February 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm and **Collins** — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

British Birds

has over 10,000 subscribers: a total of around 40,000 readers in 63 countries, and 99.6% of them keep their copies of 'BB' permanently, for future reference.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB530)

ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB855)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB793)

BIRDWATCHERS travel many miles in the pursuit of their hobby. Over half of British Birds subscribers use hotel or guest house accommodation. Phone 0621 815085 for advertising details. (BB681)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB766)

COUNTRY COTTAGES at Ellingham between Alnwick and Belford, sleep 6. Fully equipped, self-catering, available Easter to October. Well placed for Holy Island, Farne Islands, Cheviot Hills and many places of natural beauty. S.A.E., Lady Gadsden, 606 Gilbert House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BD. (BB935)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB858)

WEYMOUTH, Birchfields Licensed Guest House, close to RSPB reserves. BB from £14. Evening meal optional. Ideal winter/spring breaks. Parties welcome. For details phone 0305 773255. (BB969)

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Clev 5 miles. Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390

(BB963)

N. W. NORFOLK COAST – Snettisham. Two warm and pretty cottages (Tourist Board 'Commended' – 4 key). Sleeps 4. Ideally situated close to major bird reserves. Averil Campbell. Tel. 0485 541179. (BB938)

WAREN HOUSE HOTEL
RAC ★★★★ AA
★★★ HIGHLY COMMENDED ★★
Beautiful traditional country house hotel. 6 acres wooded grounds at Budle Bay Bird Sanctuary. 5 miles from Farne Islands and Holy Island. Peace and tranquility assured. No children or pets. All rooms No Smoking except Library.
WAREN MILL, BELFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND NE70 7EE.
Tel: Bamburgh (06684) 581 (BB900)

WELLS, NORFOLK. 'The Cobblers' Guest House. Central heating, H&C, tea and coffee facilities and TVs in all rooms. Tel: (0328) 710155/711092. (BB981)

SLAPTON— Well equipped, self-contained wing/bungalow in 1/2 acre. Sleeps 4-6. Seaview. Beautiful beaches. Nature reserve. Dartmouth 7 miles. Pets welcome. From £110. Tel: (0548) 580952 for brochures, SAE 'Hillcrest', Wood Lane, Slapton, Kingsbridge, Devon. (BB030)

EXMOOR. Peaceful s/catering c/heated holiday homes in National Trust Village. Marshes, woods and moorland—rich in birdlife. Reduced spring/autumn terms. Open all year. Resident Proprietors, Pack Horse, Allerford, nr Minehead. Tel: 0643 862475. (BB026)

Churchwood Valley
* Quality Log Cabins
* Conservation Area
* Varied Birds and Wildlife
* Coastal Country Setting
* Estuaries and Moorland
Colour brochure:
11 Churchwood, Wembury Bay, Near Plymouth, Devon PL9 0DZ
Telephone: (0752) 862382 (24 hr)
(BB980)

FULLY EQUIPPED HOLIDAY FLAT in private house, suitable for married couple. Borders of Bournemouth/Christchurch, convenient for shops and buses, 7 minutes by car to sea, and 15 minutes to Bournemouth centre. Terms from £80 weekly. 23 Exton Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5QF. (BB047)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB065)

SCOTLAND

SPEY VALLEY. Maureen and Larry once again invite guests to sample their highland hospitality. Set in five acres, our home has uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. Bird register available. Good home cooking and a warm welcome await you. D/B/B £130 p.w. (All rooms en-suite). Brochure: Maureen Taulbut, "Braes of Duthil', Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3ND. 047984 395. (BB879)

ALL OVER SCOTLAND. Comfortable cottages and chalets in attractive locations throughout Scotland. Stamp please for free 84-page colour brochure. Holiday Cottages (Scotland) Ltd, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9JD. Tel: 08357 481. (BB936)

STRATHSPEY SELF CATERING. 1 crown to 5 crowns highly commended. Colour brochure from S.S.C., Ballingtomb Cottages, Dulnain Bridge PH26 3LS. Tel. 047 985 322. (BB937)

ISLE OF ISLAY, HEBRIDES. Five superbly equipped cottages, open throughout year. Perfect situation with views, minutes to charming village. Short drive to RSPB reserve at Gruinart. Brochure: Mrs Sarah Roy, Lorgba Holiday Cottage, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll. Tel: 049 685/208. (BB999)

THE STRATHSPEY BIRDING CENTRE. Guest house run by birders for birders. Latest sightings and helpful information, plus daily bird trips. BB&EM. Details from 'Heatherlea', Deshar Road, Boat of Garten, Inverness PH24 3BN or ring 0479 83674. (BB010)

SEE PUFFINS, skuas, seals and a lot more. Private boat takes you among otherwise inaccessible colonies. A nature-lover's dream. Full board in castle, or stay in self-catering cottages. Send for details: Balfour Castle, Shapinsay, Orkney. Tel: 085 671 282. Fax: 0856 5039. (BB970)

ELLARY ESTATE—MOST ATTRACTIVE choice of self-catering cottages and chalets situated on the shores of Loch Caolisport. While you are at Ellary you are free to go wherever you please. There are hill walks, many lochs and burns where you can fish, numerous wildlife, birds, flowers, etc. The perfect location for the true country lover. For full colour brochure please write to: The Booking Office, Ellary 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PA. Tel: 08803 232/209 or 054685 223. (BB983)

OSPREY VISITORS to Loch Garten & Abernethy? Locheil GH offers BB: £11.50; DBB: £18.50; or self-cater Cottage (sleeps 6) rental £22 nightly, and Chalet (sleeps 4) £17 nightly. For details +150 birdlist, walks, slide-talks, etc., write: Locheil, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire. Tel: 047 983 603. (BB986)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503.(BB961)

GALLOWAY. Hills, lochs, forests and sea. Speciality, birds of prey and waterfowl. High quality self-catering houses, cottages, flats. Details G. M. Thomson & Co, 27 King Street, Castle Douglas. 0556 2973. (BB964)

GALLOWAY. Country cottage, sleeps 4. Midway Glen Trool/coast. 0858 880709. (BB041)

ORKNEY ISLES; Glen, Rackwick, Isle of Hoy. Small hill farm adjacent to RSPB Reserve, ornithologist's paradise; sea birds, moorland, meadow, birds of prey. Bed and breakfast. 1 double, 1 twin; evening meal optional. Special rate for 3 days. DBB £45 per person. Also well equipped self-catering chalet and small cottage. Tel: Rendall 0856 79262. (BB039)

ISLE OF MULL. A stable converted into two warm, comfortable flats. Frachadil Farm, Calgary. Tel: 068 84 265 or (0453) 833323. (BB037)

ISLE OF GIGHA, Argyllshire. For a holiday surrounded by natural beauty, sandy beaches, exotic gardens, birds, wild flowers, good food and comfortable accommodation. Also self catering accommodation. Please contact Mrs. McSporran, Post Office House 058-35 251. (BB036)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £48.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB965)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB067)

ISLAY, GEESE. Warm cottages sleep 8, 7 or 2. Lady Wilson, Cala na Ruadh, Port Charlotte. Tel: 289 (BB943)

WALES

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB009)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

IRELAND

IRISH COTTAGE Magnificent situation on Dingle peninsula, Kerry. Sea and mountain birds, unspoilt beaches, countryside full of flowers, quietness. Mod cons, sleeps 4. £99-£162 weekly plus electricity. Gerrards Cross (0753) 883082. (BB044)



British Birds

Established over 80 years

The quality independent monthly magazine for the serious birdwatcher.

Unlike most magazines British Birds does not have a short life. It is not read and then thrown away like a newspaper or glossy bookstall magazine.

A staggering 99.6% of readers keep their copy of British Birds permanently.

British Birds subscribers not only keep their copies permanently, they devote more than two days a week to birdwatching and are prepared to spend to support their hobby. (D805)

OVERSEAS

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB051)

S. E. SPAIN – comfortable house, convenient major wetlands. All mod cons. Sleeps 3/4. Bird list and details. Tel: 0233 628547. (BB021)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237
100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS
'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)
BEST QUOTES / 1992 GROUP RATES
(BB007)

ARCTIC SIBERIA



Trip for small, private group, arranged via leading specialist bird tour company, using Russian guides, visiting N. Sea of Okhotsk, Chukchi Peninsula and Kolyma River delta. June/July 1993. One of the first Western birding groups ever to visit these areas. Priority objectives include White Billed Diver, Emperor Goose, Spectacled and King Eiders, Baikal Teal, Pacific auks, Steller's Sea Eagle, Sandhill and Siberian White Cranes, Ross's Gull, Aleutian Tern, Great Knot, Lesser Sandplover, Red Necked Stint, Long Billed Dowitcher, Pectoral, Sharp Tailed, Western and Spoonbilled Sandpipers, Naumann's Thrush, Siberian Accentor, Pechora Pipit, etc.

A few places still available, but commitment (deposit) needed by *mid-March 1992.*

INTERESTED?

Further details *now* from: Box No. 100, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ **(BB043)**

OVER HALF of British Birds subscribers travel abroad birdwatching each year, averaging 19 days per trip. To reach this audience, phone 0621 815085 for advertising rates. (BB682)

WILDWINGS

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£139
CARIBBEAN	£329
C. & S. AMERICA	£409
AFRICA	£99
N. AMERICA	£169
ASIA	£299
AUS/NZ	£399

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTICA & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2795. pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU MON. - FRI.
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757
ABTA 65077

(BB048)

PAPA WESTRAY, ORKNEY

An island with superb birdlife, rare plants, seals and archaeology. Europe's largest tern colony.

PAPAY COMMUNITY CO OP Ltd

For information on travel/accommodation:

B.B., Papay Community Co-operative Ltd, Beltane House, Papa Westray, Orkney. Telephone 08574 267 (BB008)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May – variety of accommodation – trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB877)

Flamingo Holidays

TAKING BIRDWATCHERS TO EUROPE AND BEYOND

SIBERIA • NEPAL • THE GAMBIA
MALLORCA • CAMARGUE
EGYPT • DANUBE DELTA • ICELAND

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS IN SMALL GROUPS WITH EXPERT LEADERS

FREE BROCHURE, PHONE OR WRITE TO:

0532 586555 (24 Hour)
59 HUNGER HILLS DRIVE, LEEDS LS18 5JU

(BB989)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

OVER HALF of British Birds subscribers travel abroad birdwatching each year, averaging 19 days per trip. To reach this audience, phone 0621 815085 for advertising rates. (BB682)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monteray, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soguel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA

PHILIP MAHER
INLAND BIRD TOURS

STRZELECKI TRACK TOUR 12-27 Sept. (S.W.-Q'ld; N.W.-N.S.W.; N.E.-S.A.; N.W.-Vic.). Inland endemics, 200+ species including 4 sp Grasswren, grey & black Falcon, Plainswanderer, Inland Dotteral (camping).

SOUTH-EAST AUST. 2-13 Oct. All S.E. endemics, 300+ species including Superd Lyrebird, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Powerful Owl. Pelagic trip. Optional 4-day Tasmanian extension (camping or accommodated).

KAKADU/GULF COUNTRY 1-30 June.

Further information:
PHILIP MAHER, 94 Hunter Street, Deniliquin 2710 N.S.W. Australia
Ph. (058) 813378. (BB979)

Please mention BRITISH BIRDS when replying to advertisements

ADVENTURES WITH BIRDS

Small-group Israel

Presenting Hadoram Shirihai's unique identification course on Israel's wintering raptors and rare passerines. Enjoy dozens of eagles and harriers, numerous Lanners and Sakers plus Pine Bunting, Radde's Accentor etc..
Only £825

For details of this and many other special holidays, contact....

GOSTOURS

29 Marchwood Road Sheffield S6 5LB
Tel: 0742 334171

(BB035)

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

PERSONAL

BIRDING CANADA, UNITED STATES, COSTA RICA? For information re site guides, maps etc, write to Dunnock Enterprizes 2409 Speyside Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5K 1X5. (BB033)

RARE BIRD NEWS

BIRDLINE

0891 700 222

News you can trust from the team you know

Phone YOUR News in on 0263 741140

ALL THE NEWS FROM AVON, WILTSHIRE, SOMERSET, DEVON, DORSET, CORNWALL, ISLE OF SCILLY.

BIRDLINE SOUTH WEST
0891 700241

CALLS TO ALL 0898 NUMBERS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE 48p/MIN PEAK/STD, INC VAT. BIRD INFORMATION SERVICE, STONERUNNER, COAST ROAD, CLEY, HOLT, NORFOLK

(BB024)

BIRDWATCHER, male 47 years, non-driver, likes to go on twitches and reserves on Sundays, requires transportation and company. Willing to pay petrol, lives East end London. Tel. 081-553 0354 Dave. (BB052)

RUSSIAN SPEAKING ENGLISH BIRDER seeks birding companion for bird trips in Russia, Siberia, Caucasus. Winter '92–Summer '93. Contact: K. Turner, 240 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1UU. (BB038)

BIRD REPORT

HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1990. 214 pp plus colour plates. Regular features plus many papers inc. 10 first sightings, Status of Oriental White Stork, Penduline Tit 'Invasion', Observations in Yunnan, Liaoning and Qinghai, China, etc. £8.50 inc. p&p from S. Anstruther, Barlavington Estate, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0LG. (BB988)

CAMBS. BIRD REPORT 1990, 90pp, £4 W. Jordan, 61 Lonetree Ave., Impington, Cambs. (BB001)

DERBYSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. Full colour cover plus colour photos inside. £4.00 inc p&p from Rodney Key, 3 Farningham Close, Spondon, Derby DE2 7DZ. (BB006)

BIRDS OF OXON, 1990 £4 inc p&p, from R. Overall, 30 Hunsdon Road, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4JE. (BB027)

HERTFORDSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. £4.50 inc p&p from B. Taggart, 2 Yewtree Cottages, Colliers End, Ware, Herts SG11 1EQ. (BB022)

BIRD INFORMATION

PHONE-LINES

Latest rare bird news:

0891-884-501

Latest Rarities Committee* decisions:

0891-884-522

(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times)

* The Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss – Germany* (BB931)

ALL THE RARE BIRD NEWS AS SOON AS IT BREAKS!

paged directly to the screen of your pocket pager . . . Nationwide

RARE BIRD ALERT

details **TEL: FREE! 0800 246 246**

(BB972)

SITUATIONS VACANT

GIBRALTAR POINT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE. Contract assistant warden required for one year, April 1992 to March 1993 with responsibility for shorebird protection, £60 per week and full board. Also, shorebird warden at Donna Nook, £85 per week. Tel: 0754 762677 for details and application form. (BB984)

GIBRALTAR POINT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE. Voluntary shorebird assistant required for June & July 1992. Food and accommodation provided. Tel: 0754 762677 for details and application form. (BB985)

COURSES

SKOKHOLM ISLAND, off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art, Birdwatching, Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Send SAE to Dept BB, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF. Tel: (0437) 765462. (BB032)

BOOKS

BOOKS ON BIRDS. New and secondhand catalogue. 30p stamps. Surplus books urgently sought. BB bought and sold. Viewing by appointment. Grant Demar, Old Forge, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LP. Tel: 0732 810482. (BB004)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

FREE *Mail order catalogue on request*

Tel: 0352 770881

Fax: 0352 771590

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

SUBBUTEO NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd,North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB868)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407
(BB034)

MEINERTZHAGEN, RICKMAN, MOREAU and LACK. Rare lines by these and other authors. For catalogue write to: Barn Hill Books, Old Schoolhouse, Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ. Tel: 0770 87368. (BB005)

THE NAT. HIST. OF WALNEY ISLAND by T. Dean. £11.99 post free. Bird books bought/sold. Cat. avail. West Coast Bird Books, 25 Heatherways, Freshfield, Liverpool L37 7HL. Tel: 07048 71115. (BB944)

MOROCCO. A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO MOROCCO by P. & F. Bergier. £8.75. Prion Ltd (Perry). Vital for travellers to Morocco. From bookshops or NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon. Tel: (0803) 865913. (BB020)

THE AVERAGE British Birds reader will spend over £100 on bird books yearly. They could be buying your books. To advertise, 'phone 0621-815085. (BB683)

Please mention BRITISH BIRDS when replying to advertisements



The original **BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK**

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:
Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP
(BB053)

BIRD BOOKS, 1988-1989. SAE for 900 item catalogue. Crack Books, Sawmill Cottages, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, Lancs. (BB046)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB917)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria. CA10 3JP (Tel. 09315-282). (BB066)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Individual* BB *subscribers can advertise here FREE (up to 30 words, selling a single item, e.g. binocular, book, set of journals). Quote your BB Ref. No. and address envelope to 'Free BB Advertising'. (BB753)

BRITISH BIRDS SUBSCRIBERS spend between £300 and £1,000 a year on birdwatching equipment. They could be buying your equipment. To advertise, 'phone 0621 815085. (BB684)

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB921)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845
(BB040)

WALKERS
SONY SPECIALIST

ARE THE LARGEST OPTICAL DEALER ON THE YORKSHIRE COAST
BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – VIDEO CAMERAS – LENSES – TRIPODS

* ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ
* SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB

OUR PRICES ARE TOO LOW TO PRINT

SPECIALS
KOWA TSN1/2 BODY & 20-60x ZOOM £385
TSN1/2 BODY & 30 WA £360
DISCOUNT 92 LOWEST UK PRICES

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

ARTWORK. Original drawings from the Birdwatcher's Yearbook 1992 from £35 mounted plus postage. Phone T. K. Sykes 0244 880209. (BB062)

"A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS", 1964 edition. "British Birds", Aug 1977 – July 1988, with binders. "Bird Study", Dec 1975 – Nov 1984. Offers 087786-244. (BB068)

BRITISH BIRDS. Vol. 81–84 inclusive. Unbound. Vgc. £12 per vol. + p&p. Tel: 0273 833369. (BB069)

LEITZ TRINOVID 10 x 40B with rainguard & case. Good condition £250.00 o.n.o. Ross Stepmur 10 x 50. Excellent optically but in need of cleaning £50.00. Tel: 0755 30249 (evenings). (BB070)

TAMRON mirror lens, 500mm, f.8+. Adaptall-2 custom mount + 2 x tele-converter + original case. £160. Tel: 081-472 1123 evenings. (BB071)

TRIPOD TAMER 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. post from: Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB960)

ZEISS DIALYT 10x40 BGAT*, excellent condition, hardly used, £400 o.n.o., 'phone 0434 607444 (Northumberland). (BB064)

BRITISH BIRDS. For Sale – complete Volumes 1971, 1978–1983, 1988 and incomplete sets 1955–1987. Also wanted BB 1914–1927 to complete our collection. Ring Skomer Island – 0836 572441. (BB063)

LARS JONSSON NATURE GUIDES plus Med and Alps. Also Scarce Migrants by Sharrock. For details telephone 0760 725486. (BB061)

BANNERMAN – BIRDS OF ATLANTIC ISLANDS. Vols 1–4, £350; Vol. 4 (Azores) £85 inc. p&p – all with d/ws in excellent condition – Tel. 0483 766517 after 7pm. (BB059)

BWP, Vols 1–5. As new £245. Post free. Tucker. Ring evenings: 0752 401096. (BB078)

BRITISH BIRDS: Vols 72–80 (1979–1987); Unbound with indices; £7.50 o.n.o., per volume. Tel. (0263) 740131. (BB057)

DAWSON, BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA (1923). Patron's Edition Inlaid, 4 volumes, number 1 of 100, see Condor 51:231 (1939). £675 plus shipping. John Wall, 19 Tisdale Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583, USA (BB056)

NEWTON ALFRED. Ootheca Wolleyana. 2 volumes 1864–1902. Offers. Ring 0635-49197 evenings. (BB055)

BRITISH BIRDS 1961/1975. Complete unbound for sale. All money to go to Filey Brigg Hide Fund. Offers to Peter Dunn 0723 583149. (BB054)

BRITISH BIRDS VOCABULARY 12-cassette series in 6 vols. Also Sound Guides and other productions. SAE to Lewis. Rosehill, Lyonshall. HR5 3HS. (BB049)

GUIDE TO BIRDING IN NEW ZEALAND (2nd Edn). Sites for all endemics, maps, contacts, pelagics, species lists etc. £5.50 inc p&p from Hugh Harrop, Mew House, Bigton, Shetland ZE2 9JA. (BB060)

BAXTER & RINTOUL, Birds of Scotland, 2 vols in d/w £80. Bannerman, Birds of the Maltese Archipelago in d/w £18. Haverschmidt, Birds of the Surinam in d/w £150. Ring anytime 081 393 6608. (BB072)

TWITCHING Vol. 1 complete. Unbound. Offers Tel: 0708 862207. (BB075)

RED DATA BIRDS IN BRITAIN. Original line drawings £25 to £75. Ian Willis, 20 Albert Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4JP. Tel: 0556 611158. (BB045)

Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB042)

KOWA TSN2 body with soft case, optically perfect. £175. Phone David Tomlinson on 0959 563627 anytime. (BB074)

ZOOM 20–60 EYEPIECE for Kowa TSN telescope. £70 o.n.o. Tel: 0473 710225. (BB058)

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK LEVENE. Many British rarities including all Scilly birds in 1991, also prints and slides of Birds of the USA and Canada, Israel, Spain, Hong Kong etc. 6 x 4 prints £1.50 plus 30p post and packing. Please send a SAE for a catalogue.

Jack Levene, 6 Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6SJ. Phone 0206 298345. (BB003)

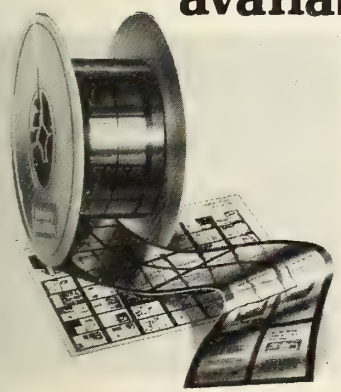
AVIAN PHOTOS
Dave Cottridge, Tim Loseby, David Tipling
SLIDE DUPLICATE SERVICE
Slide Duplicates £2.00 each + 30p p&p.
Available now. Many species from around the world in different aspects of plumage and behaviour. Includes comprehensive collection of British birds.
RARE BIRDS IN BRITAIN
6" x 4" colour prints £1.50 each + 30p p&p.
Prints of many of the latest rarities.
Send large S.A.E. for catalogues of both slide duplicates and rare bird prints to: David Tipling, 99 Noah's Ark, Kemsing Park, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PD.
Tel: 0732 63486
(BB073)

OPTOLYTH ALPIN 10 x 50 binoculars, with case. Very good condition £165. Tel: Nottingham (0602) 273602. (BB079)

BIRDING IN NEW ZEALAND (2nd Edition). Sites for endemics, contacts, pelagics, maps, checklists etc. £5.50 inc p&p from Hugh Harrop, Mew House, Bigton, Shetland ZE2 9JA. (BB077)

"THE NATURALIST IN BARNET: A FOCUS ON BARNET'S WILDLIFE". Collection of wildlife papers, including many on birds, about this London Borough. £1.95. C. Herbert, 67a Ridgeway Ave., East Barnet, Herts. (BB076)

This publication is available in microform.



University Microfilms International

University Microfilms International reproduces this publication in microform: microfiche and 16mm or 35mm film. For information about this publication or any of the more than 13,000 titles we offer, complete and mail the coupon to: University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Call us toll-free for an immediate response: 800-521-3044. Or call collect in Michigan, Alaska and Hawaii: 313-761-4700.

☐ Please send information about these titles:

Name _____

Company/Institution _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

(D373)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 2 February 1992

53 **The new DNA-DNA avian classification: what's it all about?** *Dr Burt L. Monroe, Jr*

62 **Identification of Lanceolated Warbler** *Nick Riddiford and Paul V. Harvey*

Reviews

79 'The Herons of Europe' by Claire Voisin. Illustrated by G. Brusewitz, P. L. Suiro & F. Desbordes *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

79 'The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology' edited by Michael Brooke & Tim Birkhead *Dr Colin J. Bibby*

80 'Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall' by David Norman & Vic Tucker *Brian Rabbitts*

81 **Short reviews**

81 **Mystery photographs** *175* Shag *Paul Trodd*

Notes

83 Plumage variation of Clamorous Reed Warblers in Israel *William Laird*

86 Sunning by a Willow Warbler *Dr K. E. L. Simmons*

87 Cannibalism by Magpies *Captain A. J. Crease*

88 'Third bird' copulating at Carrion Crow nest *Dr David Harper*

88 Birds' premonition of earthquake *Oscar J. Merne*

Letters

89 Status of Marsh Warbler in Norway *Øivind Syvertsen*

90 The benefit of contact lenses to birdwatchers with sight defects *Dr A. G. Duff*

90 Seventy-five years ago . . .

91 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

Request

91 Photographic requests

Announcement

92 Books in British BirdShop

92 **News and comment** *Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch*

95 **Monthly marathon**

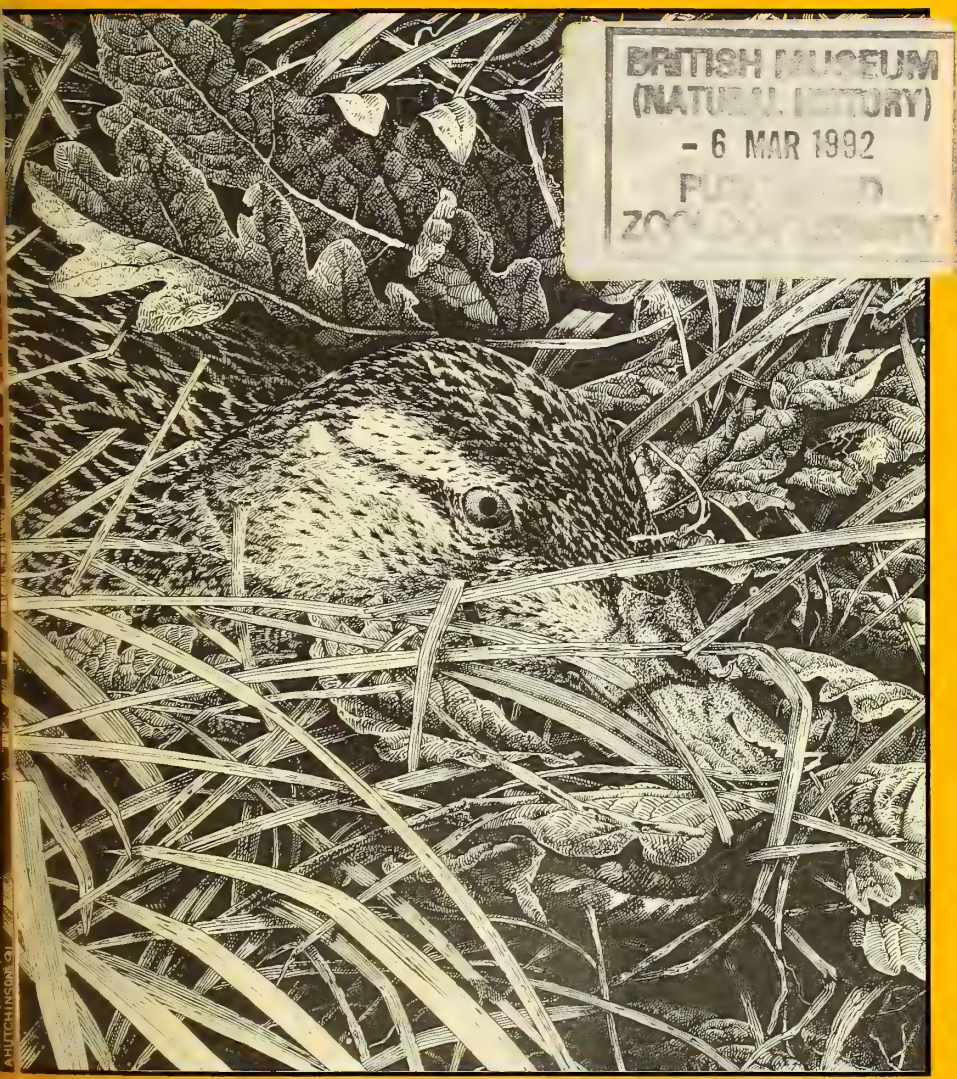
96 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 53 Shoebill (*Bryan Bland*); 59 Hoopoe (*Bryan Bland*); 60 Demoiselle Cranes (*the late Laurel Tucker*); 62 Lanceolated Warbler (*Ian Lewington*)

Front cover: Golden Eagles (*Andrew Shaw*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 3 March 1992



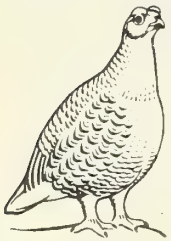
BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 6 MAR 1992

Breeding failure of Audouin's Gull
Autumn 1991: non-passerines
Moussier's Redstart: new to Britain and Ireland
The Rare Breeding Birds Panel

Monthly marathon · Mystery photographs · Reviews
Product reports · Fieldwork action · ICBP news
Notes · News and comment · Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, A. R. Dean, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume & J. H. Marchant; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984); names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford

204 HIGH STREET
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 081-449 1445
PHONE 081-441 7748
FAX: 081-440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK
AT BRIARFIELDS HOTEL, TITCHWELL
When new goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased
Phone for details

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

SPRING FIELD EVENT PROGRAMME

The ideal way to test optics for birdwatching is to watch birds! Our field events at well known Reserves countrywide will enable customers to test and select from our complete range of equipment. Information packs are available on all events – please apply in writing or by phone. Two day events are usually run on an appointment basis and preference will be given to those with an advanced booking. All events open between 10 am - 4 pm daily

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

DUNGENESS KENT SAT 29th FEB. SUN 1st MARCH	LEMSFORD SPRINGS HERTS. SUN 8th MARCH SUN 12th APRIL	HAUXLEY NORTHUMBERLAND SAT 14th MARCH SUN 15th MARCH	ABBERTON ESSEX SUN 15th MARCH
ADUR ESTUARY SHOREHAM SAT 21st MARCH SUN 22nd MARCH	LODMOOR DORSET SAT 28th MARCH SUN 29th MARCH	KENFIG MID. GLAMORGAN SAT 4th APRIL SUN 5th APRIL	POTTERIC CARR DONCASTER SAT 11th APRIL SUN 12th APRIL

BAUSCH & LOMB £
Elite 8x42BGA 629.00
Elite 10x42BGA 629.00
Custom 8x36B 229.00
Custom 10x40BGA 249.00
Legacy 8x24 89.00
Elite 22x60B 289.00
Elite 22x60BGA 309.00
Elite 15x-45x60BGA 349.00

LEICA £
Trinovid 8x20BC 199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC 226.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA 226.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA 239.00
Case for Mini 15.00
Trinovid 7x42BA 628.00
Trinovid 8x42BA 628.00
Trinovid 10x42BA 628.00

CARL ZEISS £
Designer 8x20BT*P 295.00
Designer 10x25BT*P 319.00
Dialyt 8x20B 236.00
Dialyt 10x25B 259.00
Dialyt 8x20BGA 305.00
Dialyt 8x30BGAT 509.00
Dialyt 7x42BGAT 589.00
Dialyt 10x40BGAT 599.00
Dialyt 10x40BT 639.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT 729.00
5x60 Porro GAT 1190.00

Accessories:
Raingaurd 8.00
Eye Cups (Set) 16.00
Eye Cups Hard (Set) 16.00
Lanyard 5.00
Wide Lanyard 15.00
Spare Case from 19.00

NIKON £
8x20CFIII 69.00
10x25CFIII 79.00
8x23CFII 85.00
10x25CFII 89.00
8x20DCF 135.00
10x25DCF 150.00
8x30DCF 249.00
8x36DCF 279.00
10x40DCF 539.00
8x35E 199.00
10x30E 229.99
10x35E 249.00
Fieldscope-12x24DCF 329.00
Fieldscope II 20x60 304.00
Fieldscope II 20x-45x 379.00
Fieldscope ED II 20x60 555.00
8x-45x60 629.00
8x & 20x 65.00
10x & 40x 65.00
40x 65.00
8x-45x Zoom 147.00
Coya Multi Coat Filter 20.00
Rubber Hood 10.00
Photo Kit 168.00
Day-on Case 45.00
Spotting scope 20x60GA 199.00
20x-45x60GA 265.00
20x 34.95
15-45x Zoom 100.00

SWIFT £
County 10x40 89.00
Triton 10x50 99.00
Trilyte 7x42BGA 132.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA 135.00
Trilyte 10x42BGA 139.00
Audubon HR5 199.00
Audubon 7x35BGA 329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body 149.00
15-45x Zoom 49.00
20x 20.00
Case 15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with 50x-80x Hood, Case 2200.00
30x-50x 120.00
80x-130x 120.00
Erector Prism 289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA 227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA 257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA 246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA 249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA 268.00
Touring 8x32BGA 395.00
Touring 7x42BGA 445.00
Touring 10x40BGA 445.00
TBS HD Body 549.00
TBG HD Body 549.00
TBS Body 398.00
TBG Body 398.00
20x WA 122.00
30x WA 77.00
30x WW 135.00
40x WA 77.00
22x-60x Zoom 159.00
Soft Case 29.00
Hard Case 35.00
Stay-on Case for TGS/TBG 45.00

KOWA £
TS-601 179.00
TS-602 179.00
20xWA 55.00
25xWA 48.00
20x-60x Zoom 99.00
Case 19.95
TSN-1 295.00
TSN-2 295.00
TSN-3 555.00
TSN-4 555.00
20x-60x Zoom 139.00
20xWA 96.00
25x 63.00
30xWA 119.00
40x 63.00
60x 96.00
77x 99.00
Skua Case 39.95
Rear Dust Dome 15.00
Spare O.G. Cover 6.00
27xWA (Screw Fit) 59.00
Screw/Bay Adaptor 20.00
Case for TSN 24.95

Photo Adaptor 800mm 107.00
Photo Adaptor 1200mm 179.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30 49.95
Vega II 8x40 54.95
HR 8x32B 152.00
HR 7x42B 155.00
HR 8x42B 157.00
HR 10x42B 162.00
HR 10x50B 178.00
HR 80 Body 269.00
30xWA 33.00
27x-80x Zoom 78.00
HR 60 22x & Case 179.95
HR GA 22x & Case 189.95
HR 60 45° 22x & Case 229.95
HR 60 20x-60x & Case 219.95
HR 60 GA 20x-60x & Case 229.95
HR 60 45° 20x-60x & Case 249.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA 32.00
Classic IF60 110.00
18xWA 24.00
25x 24.00
25x HP 27.00
18x-40x Zoom 61.00
Classic IF 75mm 140.00
22xWA 24.00
30x 27.00
22x-47x Zoom 61.00
Piccolo 128.00
Eyepieces from 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60 355.00
Piccolo ED 20x-60x60 399.00
Photo Kits from 34.00
Cases for Scopes 15.00
Macro Monocular 50.00

MIRADOR £
8x32B 110.00
7x42B 112.00
8x42B 113.00
10x42B 115.00
10x50B 127.00
Merlin 60mmx25 109.00
Merlin 18x-40x60 139.00
Merlin 75mmx30 129.00
Merlin 22x-47x75 169.00
Case for Merlin 15.00

REDFIELD £
7x35BA 199.00
10x50BA 249.00
20-45x60GA 299.95

PENTAX £
8x40PCF 99.95
10x50PCF 104.95
12x50PCF 109.95

BRESSER £
Action 8x40 69.00
Action 10x50 79.00
Linear 8x42 119.00
Linear 10x42 124.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B 139.95
Hanover 10x42B 149.95
Regent 8x42B 169.95
Kensington 10x42B 179.95

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS
Opticron 20x80 390.00
Opticron 30x80 395.00

HABICHT £
10x40 Diana 372.00
7x30SLC 353.00
8x30 SLC 365.00
8x20B 220.00
AT80 Body 547.00
22xWA 72.00
32xWA 124.00
20x-60x Zoom 164.00
Case 93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body 145.00
Spacemaster Body GA 165.00
15x-45x Zoom 49.00
22xWA 32.00
Case 15.00
Photo kit 30.00

VELBON £
New Fluid Head Tripods
Victory 350 39.95
D-500 59.95
D600 69.95
D700 79.95

CULLMANN £
Hide Clamp 54.95
Shoulder Pod 29.95
Q/R System 10.95
Q/R Plate 5.95

SLIK £
Master D-2 72.95
Master D-3 89.95

MANFROTTO £
055 Base 71.50
055B Base 75.00
190 Base 45.00
190B Base 58.50
144 Base 54.00
144B Base 58.50
128 Head 45.00
200 Head 50.00
Tripod Strap 10.95
Spare Q/R Plate 5.95

ACCESSORIES £
Car Window Mount 22.00
Universal Mount 22.00
Hide Clamp 38.00
Rainguards from 3.50
Pentax Cleaning Cloth 3.95
Pentax Cleaning Kit 3.99
Tripod Strap 6.95
Lanyards from 4.00
Dust Away 3.95
Double Eyepiece Case 9.95
Tamrac 60/60mm Scope Case 24.50

Also in stock Binoculars from Fujinon, Ranger, Adlerblick, Minolta etc.

IN FOCUS CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a period of 3 years from purchase. In the event of equipment failing for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. Compare Zeiss with Leitz and Bausch & Lomb, Kowa with Nikon and Optolyth. We are a completely independent company, whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa Cards will be despatched same day.

MAIL ORDER
Just add £2 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

SECONDHAND
Instruments are always available. Turnover is fast so we do not print a list. Phone for information.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes.

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK) We are 500 yds east of the RSPB Reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster, and we have our own private car parking.

HOW TO FIND US (BARNET) We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

TELESCOPES AND TRIPOD OUTFITS
If you purchase a scope and tripod at the same time we can offer you a very special price!

PHONE FOR A QUOTE

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED Zeiss, Leitz, Kowa and Nikon products Phone or write for details.

VISA

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECONDHAND SCOPES

E&OE

(D975)

Cygnus Wildlife

Holidays for Birdwatchers 1992

CANADIAN ADVENTURE with Peter Roberts – 25 June-9 July 1992

Southern Manitoba, Hudson Bay, plus optional 3 days in Newfoundland.

An opportunity to gain an insight into the wildlife of this beautiful and often desolate country. Our itinerary will guide us through woodland, prairies, mountains and marshland in pursuit of species such as Great Grey Owl, Spragues Pipit and Connecticut Warbler.

Churchill on the edge of Hudson Bay boasts a wide range of arctic species, the star attraction of which should be Ross's Gull. A steady passage of migrants should also keep us busy, and last but not least a boat trip on the Churchill River should ensure close-up views of Beluga Whales.

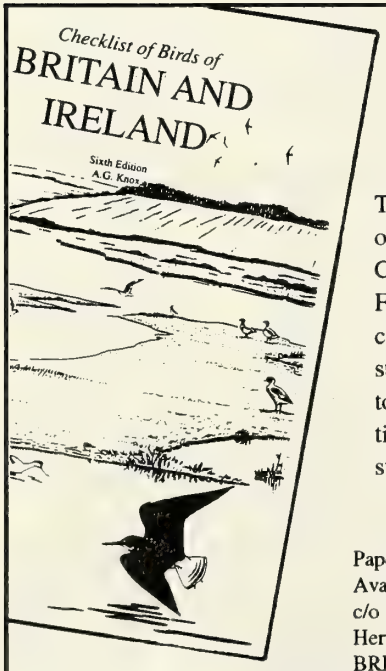
The Newfoundland extension affords excellent opportunities to observe the magnificent Humpback Whale, Brunnich's Guillemot and also to sample the marvellous seafood of the region.

Full tour report available and also our 1992 brochure which contains details of all our 1992 tours spanning six continents

ABTA 62948

CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS,
57 FORE STREET, KINGSBRIDGE, DEVON TQ7 1PG
Telephone 0548 856178 Fax: 0548 857537

(D984)



Checklist of Birds of
BRITAIN AND IRELAND
Sixth Edition A.G. Knox

The sixth edition of the most authoritative list of British and Irish birds prepared by the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union. First published in the 1890's, this edition of the checklist includes all 544 species and the many sub-species accepted up to the end of 1991, together with notes on their status. It is also timely because it includes for the first time the suggested revised English names.

PUBLICATION 19, MARCH 1992
£4•95

Paperback 0-907446-15-19
Available from booksellers, or from the BOU, c/o The Natural History Museum, Tring, Herts. HP23 6AP Please add £1 for P&P
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

(D977)

THE SALE CONTINUES - TAKE 5% OFF ALL PRICES BELOW!



BINOCULARS

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£236
10 x 25 B	£259
8 x 20 BGA	£305
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£509
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£589
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£729
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£599
7 x 50 BGAT* P	£599
8 x 20B (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B (New Style)	£320

PLUS Phone For Special Demo-Stock Prices!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC		£199
8 x 20 BCA		£226
10 x 25 BC	ALL FROM	£226
10 x 25 BCA	STOCK	£239
7 x 42 BA		£628
8 x 42 BA		£628
10 x 42 BA		£628

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
DWCF 8 x 24 Compact	£151
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

SWIFT

Saratoga 8 x 42	ONE ONLY	£129
Osprey 7.5 x 42	ONE ONLY	£136
Audubon 8.5 x 44 B		£199
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY		£269

SWAROVSKI OPTIC – THE NATURAL CHOICE

* SUPERB OPTICS
* BEAUTIFULLY MADE
* ALL MODELS FULLY *WATERTIGHT*

8 x 20 B Roof Prism	£215
8 x 30 SV WB Roof Prism	£365
8 x 30 WM	£299
10 x 40 WM	£365

Demo-Stock Clearance – 25% off these prices

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	£119.95	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	£169.95	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 B	£209.95	£169.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	£219.95	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50		£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
NEW 8 x 24 Compact	£98
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£629
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629
Custom 8 x 36 B	£189.95
Custom 10 x 40 B	£198.95
Custom 10 x 40 B Armoured	£249.95

Demo-Stock Clearance – 25% off these prices

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7-15 x 35 Zoom	£119
7 x 21 x 50 Zoom	£139
7 x 50 STD	£104

HANIMEX

8 x 21 Compact	£36.96
10 x 25 Compact	£49.95

SCOPES

GREENKAT

Kestrel 20 x 60 Waterproof	£209
Kestrel 30 x 60 Waterproof	£219

KOWA

TSN-601 Body	£179
TSN-602 Body	£179
TSN 1 Body	£295
TSN 2 Body	£295
TSN 3 Body	£555
TSN 4 Body	£555
20 x WA	£96
25 x £63	

Eyepiece Clearance – Take 50% off this price!

30 x WA	£119
40 x	£63
20-60 x Zoom	£139

Cases, Photo adaptors etc. also stocked.

Kowa Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices

SCOPES

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x	£379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x	£554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x	£629.95

Nikon Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices!

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£86
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

Optolyth Scope Package Deals – Phone for UK's Lowest Prices!

SWAROVSKI

AT 80 Body	£547
22 x WA	£72
20-60 x Zoom	£164

BUSHNELL
Spacemaster c/w 20-60 x Zoom £190

SWIFT
Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom £198.95

NEW TRIPODS

Silk D2	£72.95
Silk D3	£89.95
Velbon D-400	£44.95
Velbon Victory 480	£49.95
Velbon D-500	£49.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95
Vanguard VT-528	£59.95

Most Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

SECONDHAND

Binos

Zeiss Notarem 8 x 32B	£109
Heron 8 x 40	£39
Panorama Merlin 8 x 40	£49
Zeiss Dialyt 8 x 30B	£149
Zeiss Jena Notarem 10 x 40B	£119
Opticron 10 x 42 HR	£75

Scopes

Optolyth 30 x 75 Drawscope c/w Case	£199
Opticron HR60 c/w 22x W	£125

London Camera Exchange

SOUTHAMPTON 0703 221597/335363
10 High Street, Southampton SO1 0DH
(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen)
Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm



PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ 14-day home trial scheme on all optical equipment.
- ☆ Best prices guaranteed, and discount for RSPB members on SELECTED ITEMS.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Fast Mail Order service available.
 (Trakbak Insured Parcel Post, normally £3 extra , £5 extra for heaviest packages)
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- ☆ Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

Access

VISA

(D982)

NATURETREK

BIRDING TREKS & TOURS
in

NEPAL · KASHMIR
LADAKH · ZANSKAR
BHUTAN · CHINA
ROMANIA · PYRENEES
INDIA · INDONESIA
MALAYSIA · TURKEY
GREECE · CYPRUS
KENYA · TANZANIA
EGYPT · ETHIOPIA
BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA
AUSTRALIA · MALAWI
NAMIBIA · MOROCCO
RWANDA · ZAIRE
GALAPAGOS · CRETE
NEW ZEALAND
NEWFOUNDLAND

Independent Travel · Tailor-made Tours · Private Safaris · Flights
For our brochure/expert advice phone **0962 733051**
CHAUTARA, BIGHTON, Nr.ALRESFORD, HANTS. SO24 9RB

(D917)

For great birding...

Sunbirder
Birding package holidays

...the only way to go!

HONG KONG 2-12 APRIL FROM **£1060**
Leaders: Jon Dunn and Steve Rooke

BIEDAIHE 2-18/25 MAY FROM **£1150**
Leaders: Paul Holt and Martin Williams.

POINT PELEE 9-23 MAY FROM **£950**
Leaders: Sean McMinn and Stu Tingley

CAPE MAY 20 SEPT-3 OCT FROM **£990**
Leaders: Paul Holt and Bob Behrstock

Details from Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. Tel: 0767-682969.
(Please specify which event you are interested in).

(D979)

Topical, lively and informative

BIRDING WORLD



invites you to experience the magic of birds...

Enjoy our unique blend of articles,
tailored to today's birdwatchers; everything from
practical identification guides, clear and concise in style
and lavishly illustrated,
bird-finding tips, evocative photo-essays,
and gripping accounts of all the current rarities
through to
birding hotspots, mouth-watering excursions abroad,
monthly British and Western Palearctic news summaries,
a myriad of special features,
all our regular items including big-prize quizbirds,
and much, much more...

New for 1992, the bigger and even better Birding World is 50% larger, 100% more colour

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (12 issues) UK £5
OVERSEAS £31, AIRMAIL outside Europe £3
Special introductory of
(6 months trial) UK £12.50, OVERSEAS £1
Cheque to Birding World (Sterling or
To: **Birding World, Stonerunner, Coast Rd, Cley, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7Z**

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Postcode Tel.....

(D974)

(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 6 MAR 1992

Our own Conservation Area makes us unique. A pool and woodland adjacent to the showroom attract numerous birds, enabling our visitors to test equipment in field conditions.

Recent publications now in stock.

Warblers of Western Palearctic	[Coleman]	£21.00
Field Guide to Rare Birds of Britain & Europe	[Collins]	£14.99
Herons of Europe	[Poyser]	£22.50
In Search of Arctic Birds	[Poyser]	£20.00
Birds of the Straits of Gibraltar	[Poyser]	£27.00
Birds of Fair Isle (signed copies)	[Dymond]	£11.95

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

ZEISS

10x40 BGAT*P	599.00
7x42 BGAT*P	589.00
8x30 BGAT*P	509.00
Design selection	
8x20 BT*P	295.00
10x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

Trinovid 8x20 BCA	226.00
Trinovid 10x25 BCA	239.00
7x42 BA	628.00
8x42 BA	628.00
10x42 BA	628.00

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8x40 BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40 BGA	249.00
Touring 10x40	445.00
TBS/G 80 Body	390.00
TBS/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
22x-60x zoom EP	159.00
20x WA	122.00
30x WA	135.00

NIKON

7x20 CF III	69.95
8x30 ECF	229.00
10x35 ECF	249.00
Fieldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
Sporting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

Multicoat 8x42	169.95
Multicoat 10x42	179.95
Multicoat 10x50	198.95

Add £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat

KOWA

TS 601 Body	179.00
TS 602 Body	179.00
20x WA	54.00
25x40x	48.00
20x-60x zoom EP	99.00
Case for 601 and 602	19.95
TSN-1 Body	295.00
TSN-2 Body	295.00
TSN-3 Body	555.00
TSN-4 Body	555.00
20x WA	96.00
30x WA	119.00
25x40x	63.00
20x-60x zoom EP	139.00
Case for TSN 1and 2	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	107.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 60mm	102.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25x/30x	34.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95

(60mm H.R Telescopes include Free case.)

15x,20x,22x WA 25x,40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 8x42 RA	629.00
Elite 10x42 RA	629.00
Elite Telescope 22x60 RA	309.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	159.00
15-45x zoom EP	49.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	199.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	52.00
190 Legs	41.00
055 Legs	73.00
200 Video Head	52.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

WE ARE OPEN

Tuesday-Saturday 9am until 5pm
Sunday - 10am until 4pm
[Closed on Mondays]

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:

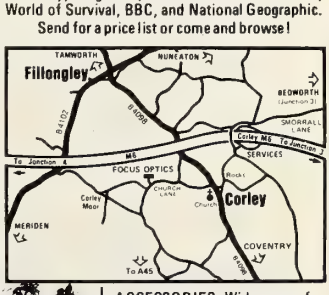
QUESTAR•FUJINON•FUMOTO
MIRADOR•BRESSER•PENTAX
REDFIELD•OPTIMA•PRAKTICA

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic.

Send for a price list or come and browse!



Focus Optics- The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

BARCLAYCARD VISA

* OPENING TIMES
Tue–Sat 9am–5pm
SUNDAY 10am–4pm

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

(D985)

FOCALPOINT VISA

The binocular and telescope specialists
Run by birders for birders

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS
Try and buy your new optics at these Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Reserves (10.30am–4pm)

SUN 8th MAR	SUN 15th MAR	SUN 12th APRIL	SUN 26th APRIL
SLIMBRIDGE Glos. (M5, Jct 13)	MARTIN MERE Lancs. (M6, Jct 27)	WASHINGTON Tyne & Wear (District 15).	MARTIN MERE Lancs. (M6, Jct 27)

FINE ART DEPT. — Ask for full price list

SKUA stay-on-the-scope cases Fittings for KOWA, OPTOLYTH, NIKON & PICCOLO	MAIL ORDER OR CALLERS WELCOME	SUPERB VIEWS OPEN SATURDAY 9.30-4.00	OPEN MON-FRI 9.30–5.30 CLOSED SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

LEICA – New 'olive-drab' Safari models – all sizes from stock NOW.

BOOK SHELF
Good selection of titles from Poyser, Macmillan, Collins, etc. e.g. Rare Birds, Warblers, Herons of Europe



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 (D981)

island holidays

AN ATOL BONDED COMPANY

ATOL 2725

PRIBILOF ISLANDS AND SOUTH EAST ALASKA

DEPARTS 13 JULY 1992

Red-legged Kittiwakes, Least & Rhinoceros Auklets, Horned and Tufted Puffins are just some of the specialities of the Pribilof Islands, along with Blue Arctic Foxes and over a million Northern Fur Seals.

South East Alaska is home to the magnificent Bald Eagles and we will hope to see huge rafts of Red-necked Phalarope and Surf Scoters. Grizzly Bears feed on salmon and we also include whale-watching.

The fully inclusive cost is £3,885 with no hidden extras. Write or telephone for more information on this and other destinations.

Island Holidays, Ardross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2JU. Tel: 0764 70107.

(D983)

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Directly for sale from the Dutch bird painter and wildlife artist

AD CAMERON

the original artwork from

OWLS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

("Best Bird Book of 1989", British Birds)

Each colour painting with corresponding black and white sketches will be sold as a set. Fixed price (per set) is £1,300. Artwork same size as in book, and unframed.

For information and orders (*only* by mail or fax):

Ad Cameron, Nesserweg 2,
NL–9141 TK Wierum
The Netherlands
fax NL–5199–9460

Payment only after confirmation.
Future sales through galleries.

(D980)

BIRDNET LTD

A 5* Service for £30 per year

* **MEGANET** – All the cripplers networked to you as soon as the news breaks.
* **INFOLINE** – Manned telephone lines so you get straight to the information you require.
* **ANSWERLINE** – Out of hours answering machines give a review of the days birds.
* **BONUSLINE** – We will pay for your rare bird information. Phone: 0298 73052.
* **CLUB DISCOUNTS** – A variety of discounted goods and services will be offered to club members.
* **PAGERS** – A wide range to choose from. Prices from as little as £15 per month.

(Note – all phones and answerline at standard rates).

For further information write to:

BIRDNET LTD, OAKLANDS MANOR, LONG HILL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE SK17 6ST or phone **0298-73054** (D986)



RARE BIRD ALERT

This new bird pager ensures that you get to hear of all British rarities as the news breaks. To find out more and to get an information pack & order form:



- Phone **FREE** 0800 246 246
- or call Dick Filby of the Rare Bird Alert team on 0603 767799
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIP** Get a pager, **NOW!**
- Please phone in sightings of rarities to the Rare Bird Alert **HOTLINE** 0426 952 952. Hotline calls charged at local rates. A donation to conservation for every call.
- £10 donated to RSPB for every pager ordered

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London, N9 OUR.

INTER-CITY PAGING (D950)

WALKERS

SONY SPECIALIST

ARE THE LARGEST OPTICAL DEALER ON THE YORKSHIRE COAST

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – VIDEO CAMERAS – LENSES – TRIPODS

* MINOLTA * ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * TASCO
* SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB

OUR PRICES ARE TOO LOW TO PRINT DISCOUNT 92

BUSHNELL SPACEMASTER II **£199**
70mm BODY & 15x–45x ZOOM
RUSSIAN BINOCULARS
8 x 30 & CASE **£27** 10 x 50 & CASE **£30**
20 x 60 & CASE WAS £71.99 **£59.99**

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST (D976)
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

World Bird Recorder

The Complete Computer Package For Birders



Why compromise when you can have the best?
Bird Recorder is the proven, user friendly bird records system for IBM compatible PCs. Not just another computer "tick" list but a complete system for recording all your birding trips and sightings while automatically keeping up to 255 lists. As used by birders in the UK, 9 European countries, the USA and Australia.

Comes complete with comprehensive user documentation and full World Species Database at £55. Western Palearctic species version £40. Prices include UK postage. Can also be used to record other natural history sightings, European Butterfly Database available at £10.

What the Press Say..."Probably *the most comprehensive birdwatching software ... easy to use and comprehensive"* **Bird Watching, August 1991.** *"The retrieval time from the indices is impressively fast ... The package is easy to use and performs well the functions for which it has been designed...I can thoroughly recommend the package."* **British Birds, August 1991.** *"Bird Recorder represents good value for money... For the individual birdwatcher it represents a good choice"* **BTO News, May/June 1991.**

Wildlife Computing Services, 6 Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt, COLCHESTER CO7 6SJ Tel. 0206 298345. Overseas add postage £3 for Europe, £7 rest. Make cheques payable to WCPS and state disks required 5.25 or 3.5 inch. Send S.A.E. for full details. (BB929)



UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/ Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in.

★ Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
on the B2145 into Selsey, W. Sussex, on **Sundays 29th March, 26th April** and **31st May** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat andBall station on **Sundays 1st March, 5th April** and **3rd May** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the Information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 15th March, 19th April** and **17th May** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Bewl Water
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst. In the Education Centre on **Sunday 22nd March** and in the Visitor Centre on **Sunday 26th April** (10.00am to 4.00pm). *Show this advert for half price parking.

★ Sussex Wildlife Trust
at WOODS MILL, Henfield, W. Sussex (A2037) on **Sunday 8th March** (10am to 4pm).

★ Wat Tyler Country Park
on a minor road off A13 south of Basildon, Essex, on **Sunday 12th April** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Slimbridge, Glos.
(M5, Jct 13) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Monday 20th April** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

FREE TRIPOD, WORTH £40 (SOLIGOR) with certain* telescopes – or pay the extra for a different tripod.

Some examples of our stocks:

At least £50 allowance for your old binos when buying these # Zeiss models

ZEISS	£
10 x 25 B Dialyt	259
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	509
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)#	589
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)#	599
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	669
BAUSCH & LOMB	
8 x 42 BA Elite	629
10 x 42 BA Elite	629
Custom 8 x 36 B	229
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
22 x 60 B Elite Scope	289
22 x 60 BGA Elite Scope	309
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
SWAROVSKI ★	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
10 x 40 Diana	372
AT80 scope (body)	535
22x (WA) eyepiece	70
20–60x zoom eyepiece	160
AT80 case	91
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	239
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	199
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	40
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA ★	
TSN-1 (45°) body	295
TSN-2 body	295
TSN-3 body	555
TSN-4 body	555
25x or 40x eyepiece	63
20x (WA) eyepiece	96
30x (WA) eyepiece	119
20–60x zoom eyepiece	139
60x eyepiece	96
77x eyepiece	99
Camera adaptor 800mm	107
Camera adaptor 1200mm	179
Kowa case	24
Weathershield case	38
Spare OG cover	5
27x (WA) eyepiece (Screw fit)	59
Eyepiece dust dome	15
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope with zoom EP	199
OPTOLYTH ★	
8 x 30 Alpin (205)	227
8 x 40 Alpin (225)	246
10 x 40 Alpin (230)	249
10 x 50 Alpin (241)	268
12 x 50 Alpin (247)	273
7 x 42 Alpin (238)	257
TBG80 telescope body (350)	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece (150)	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5

(Bracket prices while stocks last)

	£
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
15–45x zoom EP	49
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	199
10 x 50 RA roof prism	249
GREENKAT *	
FFS 7 x 35 Focus Free	69
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
OBSERVATION	
Vixen 20 x 100	750
Vixen 30 x 80	375
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215
MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81
NIGHT VISION	
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	1,790
* Infra-red monocular	225
* Infra-red binocular	300
* Infra-red goggles (mask-mounted)	350
* NOTE: These need infra-red illumination. A searchlight can be supplied for –	100
ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF	
Kensington	180
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D2	73
Slik D3	85
Manfrotto 144/200	105
Manfrotto 144/128	100
Manfrotto 190/200	93
Soligor 550	40
Universal clamp	23
Hide clamp II	38
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	50
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps from	7
T-mounts, from	10

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports**
 including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit**
 (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

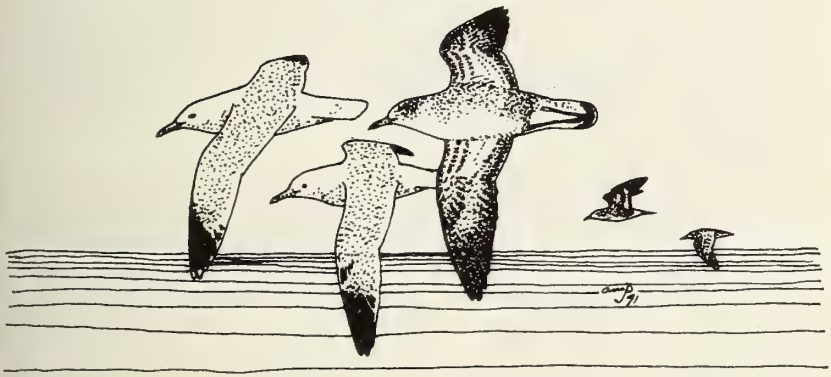
Fax:
081-687 202

VISA

(D978

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 3 MARCH 1992



Partial breeding failure of Audouin's Gull in two Spanish colonies in 1991

A. M. Paterson, A. Martínez Vilalta & J. I. Dies

During the 1991 breeding season, there was low breeding success at two of the Spanish colonies of Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*. It was approximately half that of recent years in the colony at the Ebro Delta (Tarragona), and there was a virtually total failure in the smaller colony on the Columbretes Islands (Castellón)(see fig. 1). It seems desirable, therefore, to document briefly what is known of this failure and the probable reasons for it.

Previous breeding history

The history of the Ebro colony has been one of rapid growth since breeding was first reported in 1980, and since 1989 the colony size has fluctuated around 4,000-4,200 pairs, with an annual reproductive success

sources, such as the surrounding rice fields of the Ebro, it is assumed that these resources were insufficient over a prolonged period to guarantee the adults feeding themselves adequately, much less the chicks, hence the widespread dispersal along the eastern seaboard of Spain between Alicante in the south and Gerona in the north, the large-scale desertions during the incubation period in the Columbretes, and the visible malnutrition of chicks on the Ebro. Those from the Columbretes colony had no recourse to such alternative food sources, hence breeding failure there was proportionately much greater.

Casual observations from Málaga after 10th August and in September indicated that numbers of juveniles were between one-third and one-quarter of those normally encountered (AMP). The majority of Audouin's seen in Málaga are believed, on the basis of colour-ringing observations, to come very largely from the Ebro, with apparently very little movement across the Sea of Alborán from the Chafarinas Islands colony off the Moroccan coast to the Spanish coast until close to the Strait of Gibraltar.

This one-off breeding failure will probably have few noticeable medium (4-5 years) or long-term consequences on the breeding populations either in the Ebro Delta or on the Columbretes, as observations in spring and early summer 1991 from Málaga and Valencia regions indicate an ample reservoir of second-year and third-year birds. There will, however, be a relatively obvious short-fall of individuals in the 1991 age-group in censuses until these reach adult plumage. Breeding both on the Chafarinas and on the Balearic Islands was apparently completely normal, and age-group recruitment from these colonies will be normal.

Summary

Coincident with a voluntary moratorium on inshore fishing during May-June 1991, there was a serious decline in breeding success of Audouin's Gulls *Larus audouinii* at two Spanish colonies (at the Ebro Delta and on the Columbretes Islands) in adjacent areas where the adult and young gulls rely on food usually provided by the commercial fishing activities.

References

DE JUANA, E., & PATERSON, A. M. 1986. The status of seabirds in the extreme western Mediterranean. In MEDMARAVIS & MONBAILLIU, X. (eds.) *Mediterranean Marine Avifauna: population studies and conservation.* pp. 39-106. Berlin.

DOLZ, C., GIMÉNEZ, M., & GÓMEZ, J. A. 1986. [Note on *Larus audouinii*] *Ardeola* 33: 208.

IBORRA, F. J. C., VERDU DEL CAMPO, M., & GARCÍA Y GANS, F. J. 1990. [Contribution to the study of the trophic ecology of *L. audouinii* and *L. cachinnans michahellis* in the Columbretes Islands.] *Medi Natural* 2: 97-102.

MARTÍNEZ VILALTA, A. (1988) [Spectacular increase of gulls and terns in the Ebro Delta.] *GIAM Bol.* 3: 3.

PATERSON, A. M. 1990. *Aves de Marinas de Málaga y Mar de Alborán.* Sevilla.

TROYA, A., MARTÍNEZ VILALTA, A., MAYOL, J., & GÓMEZ, J. A. (in press) [Actual state and preliminary results of the Coordinated Action Plan for the conservation of Audouin's Gull in Spain.] *Proc. 2nd MEDMARAVIS Conference, Calvià, 1989.*

A. M. Paterson, Edificio San Gabriel 2-4°-A, Escritor Adolfo Reyes, 29620 Torremolinos (Málaga), Spain

A. Martínez Vilalta, Parc Natural del Delta de l'Ebre, Plaza 20 de Maig, 43580 Deltebre (Tarragona), Spain

J. I. Dies, Estacion Ornitol. Albufera, Av. los Pinares 106, 46012 Valencia, Spain

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by



Although mostly submerged, that bird flopping in the water (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 296) was very distinctive. Answers given were:

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*	(88%)
Gannet *Sula bassana*	(2%)
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	(1%)
Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*	(1%)

with a few votes for White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

It was a Sabine's Gull, photographed by Larry Dalziel in Shetland in autumn 1989.

There are now seven people in the leading group, all of whom have achieved eight consecutive correct answers (G. P. Catley, P. A. Clark, Roy Hargreaves, Hannu Jännes, P. G. Lansdown, Pekka J. Nikander and Dave Nurney), with one contestant (Mrs S. K. Armstrong) close on their heels, with a seven-in-a-row sequence. The prize of a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday to Africa, Asia or North America (worth well over £1,000) is almost within one contestant's grasp. It's not the time to slip up . . .

As soon as the prize is won, a new 'Monthly marathon' will start. Don't miss the first one in the new sequence, which *could* be this month's picture (plate 38).

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.

38. 'Monthly marathon' (twentieth stage in fifth contest or first stage in sixth contest: photograph number 69). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th April 1992



Seasonal reports



Autumn 1991 Part 1: non-passerines

Keith Allsopp and Barry Nightingale

This report includes some unchecked reports, as well as authenticated records

General weather pattern and seabird movements

After the very cool spring weather through to June, temperatures in July were generally above average, with mild air arriving from the southwest and southeast. The Azores anticyclone, staying to the south, and the Continental high pressure now combined to keep the cold northerly air at bay. The westerlies, however, brought a string of cyclones whose weather fronts and developing wave depressions gave frequent periods of wet and changeable conditions across the whole of Britain and Ireland into August; the high-pressure systems pushed the pattern northwards, giving increasingly settled, dry periods, with the winds still in the west until the last week. Then, high pressure centred over Britain and Ireland brought northeasterlies to southeasterlies to England. Some 25 wandering solitary **Cory's Shearwaters** *Calonectris diomedea* were seen over this period, mainly in the southwest and in the Irish Sea except for one off the Farne Islands (Northumberland) on 15th August and another at Girdleness (Grampian) on 26th August. On the majority of occasions, sightings were on weather fronts not necessarily with associated high winds. Numbers of **Great Shearwaters** *Puffinus gravis*, sighted over the period in the Western Approaches, increased during August, with 65 off Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork) on 25th after 20 off Porthgwarra (Cornwall) on 23rd. On the same day at Pendeen (Cornwall), 40 **Sooty Shearwaters** *P. griseus* was the highest English count, followed by 48 off Cape Clear Island on 25th. A slow-moving weather front, orientated north to south there on 21st, channelled 1,600 **Storm Petrels** *Hydrobates pelagicus* past the island.

The anticyclone remained over Scotland into September, keeping an easterly drift over England. Throughout the second half of August, 13 single **Long-tailed Skuas** *Stercorarius longicaudus* had been noted, mainly on the North Sea coast, but during 6th-11th September the 3,000 counted inshore along the English northeast coast greatly exceeded all previous autumn totals. A vigorous depression which brought westerly gales to North Norway on 4th may have induced them to move south, but such a pelagic bird would not be expected to be blown off course. Either a temporary anomaly in the earth's magnetic field from this year's (1991's) exceptional ionic activity entrained in the frontal jet streams affected navigation, or simply North Sea feeding conditions were too good to ignore. A flight across land to the Atlantic would present no difficulties, as they normally cross the Norwegian mountains. Individual seawatch counts were 194 at Hartlepool (Cleveland) and 170 at Flamborough Head (Humberside) on 6th, and 255 at Whitburn (Tyne & Wear) and 197 at Hound Point (Lothian) on 7th, with very few being seen farther south (plate 42).

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 102-107, March 1992]

Twenty off Suffolk on 7th was notable, as was 66 in Orkney on 9th. Over this period, 144 **Sooty Shearwaters** were counted at Whitburn. The high pressure declined from 12th, and westerlies resumed, bringing large flocks of **Great Shearwaters** into Cornish waters, with 1,553 seen off Porthgwarra on 14th and 812 on 15th, and an estimated 1,000 from the MV *Scillonian III* on 14th, together with 30 **Cory's Shearwaters**. Further unsettled weather came in from the west, and a rapidly developing cyclone in the Bay of Biscay on 28th brought strong easterlies across the North Sea and a further 107 **Long-tailed Skuas** inshore to Whitburn. Warm unsettled westerlies remained into October, a further 1,500 **Storm Petrels** passing Cape Clear on 2nd at another weather front. The pattern continued until 17th, when a high-pressure ridge in mid Atlantic turned the winds northerly and temperatures dropped, bringing the **Long-tailed Skua** saga to a magnificent finale with a fly-past of 485 at Flamborough on 19th. The next day, a new saga began there, with a parade of 1,735 **Little Auks** *Alle alle*, while, farther south, 200 passed Sheringham (Norfolk), and a few strays were found inland. As the high pressure drifted eastwards, the northerlies warmed as maritime air replaced the polar, finally transferring the winds to the south as the anticyclone moved to western Europe. More exotic seabirds included three **Soft-plumaged Petrels** *Pterodroma mollis*, two off Ireland and one at Flamborough on 6th September, a **Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii* at Hornsea (Humberside) on 8th September, and ten **Little Shearwaters** *Puffinus assimilis*, four in the North Sea, three off Wales, two off Scotland and one off Ireland. **Leach's Petrels** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* were blown inshore on westerly gales in western Scotland: on South Uist (Western Isles), 117 were seen on 24th September, and there were 54 at Troon (Strathclyde) on the same day. On an October blow on 17th, 48 passed Kintyre (Strathclyde). Counts of **Pomarine Skuas** *S. pomarinus* were also impressive in October, with over 800 reported, including 165 on 19th at Flamborough and 130 on 18th at Strumble Head (Dyfed).

Divers, grebes and wildfowl

An immature **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* was an intriguing find at Gosford Bay (Lothian) on 31st July, another being found on 24th August, and sightings continued into September, when two were reported in flight past Flamborough on 19th. Gosford Bay also held 62 **Red-necked Grebes** *Podiceps grisegena* by mid September, and subsequently there was the usual scatter inland as well as on the coast (plate 39); a **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* was reported at Crianlarich (Central) on 15th October. A **Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus* was found among the returning **Pink-footed Geese** *A. brachyrhynchus* at Martin Mere (Lancashire) on 4th October, and a **Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis* accompanied the 12,000 **Barnacle Geese** *B. leucopsis* returning to Caerlaverock (Dumfries & Galloway) on 2nd October. New migrant Nearctic ducks must add to the existing vagrant population, an immature **American Wigeon** *Anas americana* at Helston (Cornwall) on 1st to 4th September being a likely newcomer, but six others found in October were adult and less likely. The Martin Mere 'Green-winged' **Teal** *A. crecca carolinensis* returned by 26th September and another was found at Blithfield Reservoir (Staffordshire) on 27th October. Three **Blue-winged Teals** *A. discors* were reported, one possible newcomer being found on St Kilda (Western Isles) on 18th September, with others in Co. Wexford on 21st and at Helston on 2nd October. Most of the nine records of **Ring-necked Ducks** *Aythya collaris* probably referred to returning long-stayers, but one in the Isles of Scilly on 23rd September might have been new. A **Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata*, of unknown origin, stayed at Bideford (Devon) from 19th October. **King Eiders** *Somateria spectabilis* were reported from Shetland and Grampian, with two in each area, and another from Strumble Head on 2nd October. Six **Surf Scoters** *Melanitta spectabilis* were off Murcar (Grampian) on 21st July and by October four singles were reported farther south: three on



the east coast of England and one in Start Bay (Devon). A notable concentration of 360 **Goldeneyes** *Bucephala clangula* was found at Hound Point (Lothian) on 20th October.

Birds of prey

As well as those breeding in Devon, Hampshire and elsewhere during July, four other **Honey Buzzards** *Pernis apivorus* were seen, in Kent, Wales and Scotland, and nine returning migrants in September-October. Three **Black Kites** *Milvus migrans* was a normal number for autumn, as were eight **Rough-legged Buzzards** *Buteo lagopus*. **Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus* were quite common pausing on passage throughout September and October, with some 50 records. A **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*, a potential new bird for Britain and Ireland, was reported from Margate (Kent) on 14th August, with another record following from Guernsey on 1st September. Just four **Red-footed Falcons** *Falco vespertinus* were seen, all between 20th August and 22nd September.

Wading birds

Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* arrived once more in force during August, with up to 70 individuals, including 13 at Slapton (Devon) on 19th, and dispersing mainly into Devon and Cornwall. Some 45 could be accounted for in September, but were down to fewer than 20 by October. Only two **Purple Herons** *Ardea purpurea* were seen, at Southwold (Suffolk) on 2nd August and in the Isles of Scilly on 13th October. There were 22 reported sightings of **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* between 3rd July and 30th September, probably involving four or five birds which ranged from East Anglia to the Western Isles. Apart from two singles in Scotland and two in Merseyside, **Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* were in ones and twos in East Anglia and along the Channel coast, and a flock of four ranged from Dungeness (Kent) to Benacre (Suffolk) and down to Titchfield Haven (Hampshire). A **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana* was calling at Minsmere (Suffolk) until 10th July and was seen occasionally until early October; 11 others were reported along the east and south coasts of England. A **Sora** *P. carolina* found in the Isles of Scilly on 4th October remained throughout that month (plate 44) but a **Baillon's Crake** *P. pusilla* on Fair Isle on 28th September died on 1st October. The third-ever British record of a **Sandhill Crane** *Grus canadensis* came from Exnaboe (Shetland) on 17th September (plate 40).

The return wader passage was well under way in July. At Elmley (Kent), 240 **Black-tailed Godwits** *Limosa limosa* had collected by 19th, and 70 **Spotted Redshanks** *Tringa erythropus* were there earlier, on 6th, with 31 being the maximum count at Minsmere, on 10th. A **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* at Bridge of Don (Grampian) in mid August was still largely in its attractive breeding plumage (plate 43). Northerly winds down the North Sea on 20th assisted many **Whimbrels** *Numenius phaeopus* southwards, counts of over 60 being made at several East Coast watches, but few being seen subsequently. **Green Sandpipers** *T. ochropus* were also early and numerous, with 35 at Tophill Low Reservoir (Humberside) and 24 at Blacktoft being atypically large concentrations. Four of the six autumn records of **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* came in early July. At Cliffe (Kent), the 46 **Curlew Sandpipers** *C. ferruginea* seen at this time were presumably adults, but few were noted elsewhere until juveniles began arriving in late August. A few inland reservoirs attracted over 20, including 26 at Blithfield Reservoir on 30th, but most were in Humberside, 58 at Blacktoft, and along the River Mersey, 90 at Frodsham on 24th, where they remained numerous into September. **Little Stints** *C. minuta* were less numerous, Blacktoft again being favoured, with 22 at the end of August, and inland there were nine at Rutland Water (Leicestershire) on 13th September. Four **Black-winged Stilts** *Himantopus himantopus* and eight **Kentish Plovers** *Charadrius alexandrinus* were notable vagrants from the south. The frequent spells of westerlies gave many opportunities for misguided Nearctic waders to cross the Atlantic. The 14 **American Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis dominica* found were located from Shetland to the Isles of Scilly

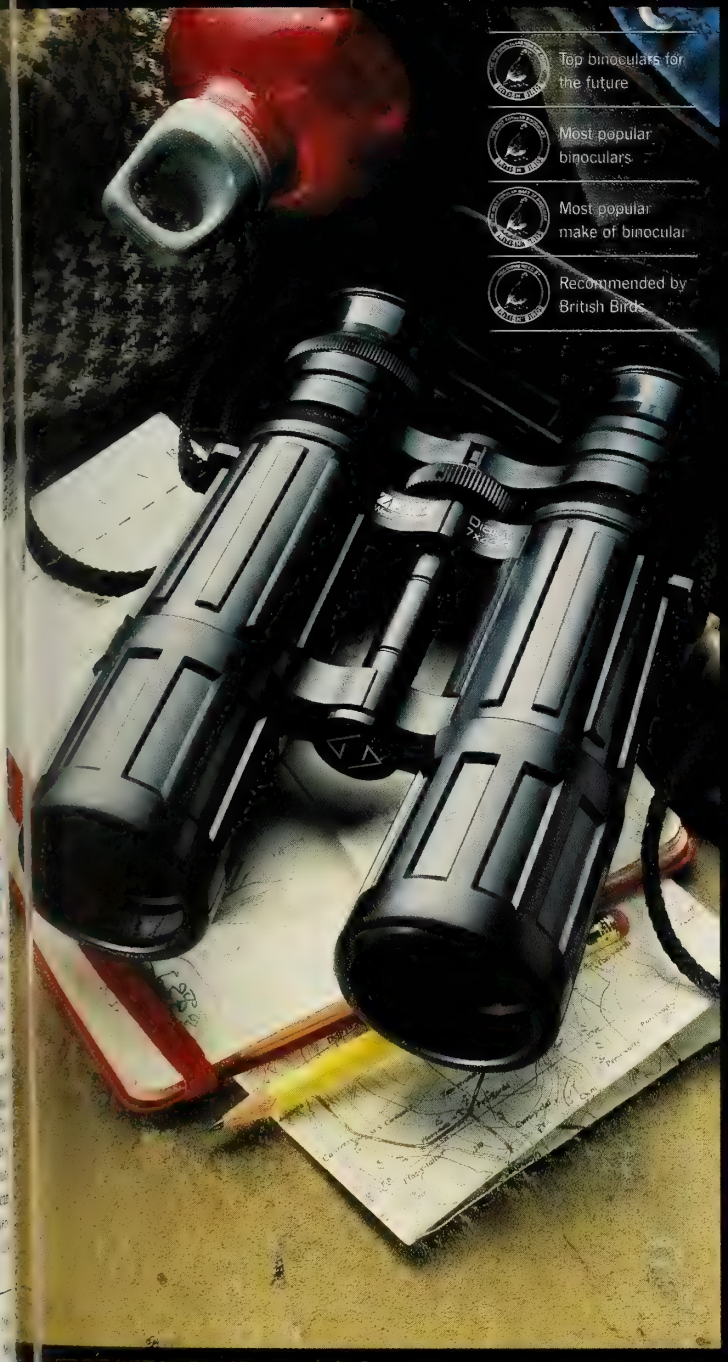
39. Top, Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, October 1991 (*Steve Seal*)

40. Centre, Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*, Exnaboe, Shetland, September 1991 (*Dennis Coutts*)

41. Bottom, American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, St Agnes, Scilly, October 1991 (*David Tipling/Avian Photos*)

The inclusion of plates 39-44 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Top binoculars for the future

Most popular binoculars

Most popular make of binocular

Recommended by British Birds

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street; Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd, Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hanningtons Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Cooperdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd; Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports
Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD. throughout the country.

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

eiss experience and quality has ved a world wide reputation xcellence.
r latest Binocular Survey, the the universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

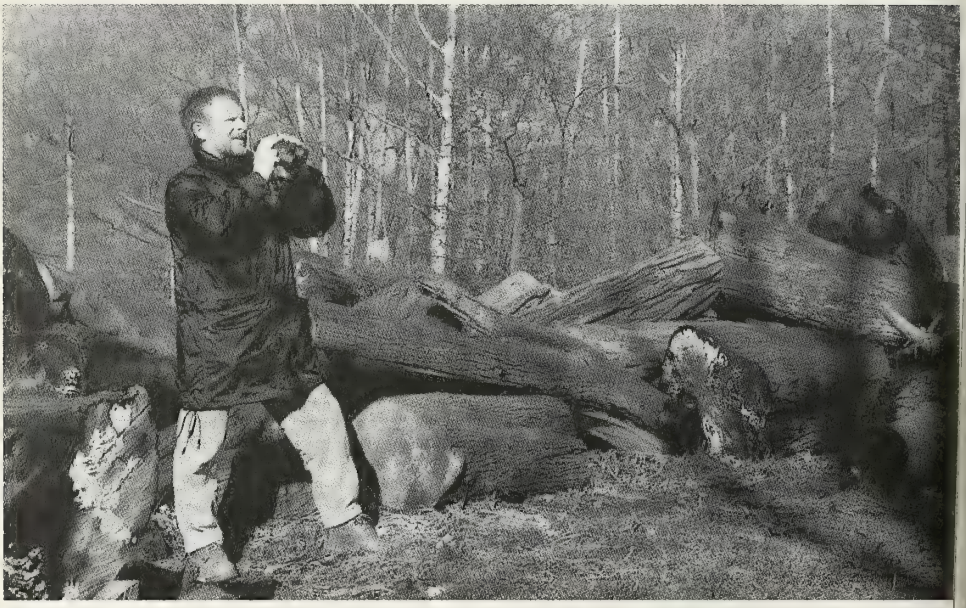
The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ZEISS
Germany Carl Zeiss

(D961

THE CHOICE OF THE ELITE



MADE BY LEICA

Take a look on the wild side through the 'new' eyes of Bill Oddi

Whenever I'm doing a serious study, I take my new Leica 10 x 42's. Their timeless desig and superior optical performance initially took me by surprise, but like most innovation I immediately enjoyed the benefits and I soon wondered how I ever got along without the. The picture really is brilliantly sharp and bright. The extra close focus is tremendous useful too ... especially if you are a naturalist who not only watches approachable birds, b also butterflies, dragonflies, bats et al. Another good point is the independent 'persona eye setting. Simply lock in the number, and you never need worry about it 'slipping' during use. Overall the new waterproof Leica 10 x 42's are as you would expect - brilliant and a bit more besides.



"TOP RATED BINOCULARS" BRITISH BIRDS
LEICA 10x42B

"THE MOST SATISFACTORY BINOCULARS" BRITISH BIRDS
LEICA 8x42B

Leica
The freedom to see.

"RECOMMENDED BY" BRITISH BIRDS
LEICA 10x42B
LEICA 8x42B

For further information on Leica products tick the appropriate box and send the coupon to Leica, P.O. Box 10, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9BT.

Leica Binoculars☐ Leica R5☐ Leica R6☐ Leica M6☐ Leica Projectors☐

Name _____
Address _____
_____ Telephone _____
Telephone and service enquiries (0908) 666663

LBB 39
(D89

x















45. Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*, Tresco, Scilly, August 1991 (*Brian Clasper*)

(plate 41) and four **Pacific Golden Plovers** *P. fulva* from Siberia were also identified. A lone **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* reached Co. Donegal on 29th September, and **Least Sandpipers** *C. minutilla* were found at Kilnsea (Humberside) on 28th July and at Landulph Marsh (Cornwall) on 25th August. Four **White-rumped Sandpipers** *C. fuscicollis*, three **Baird's Sandpipers** *C. bairdii* and 23 **Pectoral Sandpipers** *C. melanotos* were recorded. Two reports of **Stilt Sandpipers** *Micropalama himantopus*, one of the rarer species, came from Co. Cork. The 13 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** *Tryngites subruficollis* seen were well scattered, but the only **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* was on Dursey Island (Co. Cork) during 18th-24th September. Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* and three **Spotted Sandpipers** *Actitis macularia* also arrived, as did 13 elegant **Wilson's Phalaropes** *Phalaropus tricolor*, surprisingly exceeding the eight sightings of **Red-necked Phalarope** *P. lobatus*.

Gulls and terns

Three reports of **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* from mid August to September, from Flamborough to Teesmouth, perhaps involved the same individual. **Sabine's Gulls** *L. sabini* were sighted regularly on the extensive seawatches, with 85 being logged, and the 25 reported **Ring-billed Gulls** *L. delawarensis* were mostly from the expected coastal sites. Six **Gull-billed Terns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* and 11 **Caspian Terns** *Sterna caspia* are both good autumn totals. The **Bridled Tern** *S. anaethetus* in the Isles of Scilly (plate 45) and the **Least Tern** *S. (albifrons) antillarum* on the English southeast coast brightened many a late-summer day, and nine **White-winged Black Terns** *Chlidonias leucopterus* paused briefly over marshes and reservoirs during the season.

Acknowledgments

This summary was compiled from contributions from: M. Dryden, A. Jewels, I. Kinley, E. R. Meek, P. Murphy; and published information including that in the newsletters of the Bristol Ornithological Club, Buckinghamshire Bird Club, Derbyshire Ornithological Society, Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society, Fife Bird Club, Guernsey Bird News, Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, Leigh Ornithological Society, London Natural History Society, Shetland Bird Club, Shropshire Ornithological Society, South East Scotland Bird Bulletin, Sussex Ornithological Society, West Midlands Bird Club, Cape Clear Bird Observatory, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory and Whitburn Bird Observatory. We are especially grateful to National Bird News, which supplied copies of all the records reported to its phone service 'Twitch-line'.

Request

We seek to make these quarterly summaries as comprehensive as possible. Please send all reports to us at the address below, or telephone BN on the numbers listed each month on the inside front cover.

Keith Allsopp & Barry Nightingale, 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS

42. Top, juvenile Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Stolford, Somerset, October 1991 (*David Tipling*)

43. Centre, Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*, Bridge of Don, Grampian, August 1991 (*S. M. D. Alexander*)

44. Bottom, Sora *Porzana carolina*, St Mary's, Scilly, October 1991 (*David Tipling/Avian Photos*)



Moussier's Redstart: new to Britain and Ireland

Mike Barrett

On 24th April 1988, I was one of a party of five following the Pembrokeshire Coast Path northwards at Dinas Head in Dyfed, southwest Wales. Also known as Dinas Island, although it is actually joined to the coast by a low-lying stretch of land, Dinas Head is a high, rocky promontory which separates Fishguard and Newport Bays. Our leader was Graham Walker, the day was fine with some distant haze, and there was a cool but intermittent easterly wind.

By the early part of the afternoon, we were halfway around the headland, not far past the stone triangulation pillar. I had been watching a male Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* darting backwards and forwards across the gorse *Ulex* in what seemed to be some agitation; the other members of the group had moved on, and I was about to follow after a final sweep of the area with my binoculars. The Stonechat again drew my attention with his behaviour, and it was then that I noticed another small bird which had appeared on a rock nearby. My instinctive reaction—that it was a male Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*—was almost immediately revised when I saw that the bird's crown and upperparts were completely black, with a pronounced white eyebrow extending across the forehead, and down the side of its 'face' to its neck, and that there was also a vivid white wing-patch. The body and tail were orange, the wings black, and the general impression was strongly that of a redstart of some sort. The bird was visible for less than two minutes before the Stonechat—accompanied by his mate—put it to flight. By now, I had called the other members of the party back, but only two of them had seen the bird. After what seemed an interminable few minutes, however, it obligingly reappeared and we were all then able to obtain fine views for much of the next hour, during which time I obtained a series of photographs (plates 46-49). Although there was some uncertainty as to identification—a tentative assessment as a male Moussier's Redstart *P. moussieri* was not confirmed until later, with the help of field guides—there was no uncertainty at all that this handsome

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 108-111, March 1992]



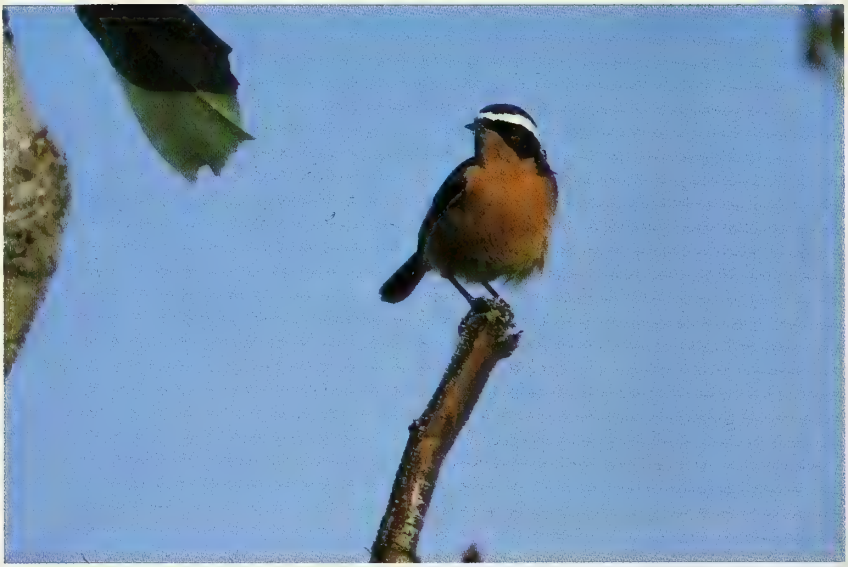
46-49. Male Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*, Dyfed, April 1988 (*Mike Barrett*)

bird was something very special indeed. These details were noted:

SHAPE AND SIZE Structure recalled short-tailed Redstart (see plates). Compact, about same size as Stonechat, determined in close, direct comparisons, highlighting that it was slightly smaller than Redstart.

GENERAL IMPRESSION Redstart-like; strikingly

The inclusion of plates 46-50 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.



50. Male Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*, Morocco, December 1987 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*)

black, white and orange; particularly attractive and distinctive.

PLUMAGE Head black, with white supercilia which extended across forehead (see plates) and continued down and around nape, widening to form partial collar; as with many male Redstarts, white on head more prominent in field than is suggested by many field guides. Underparts orange. Upperparts and wings black, with conspicuous white wing-patch (see plates). Tail orange, medium-length, and notched; no Redstart-like shivering noted.

BARE PARTS Bill, eyes, legs and feet dark.

BEHAVIOUR Active and lively; alert and wary of any close approach; flight low and direct; no call heard.

The bird was quite agile, moving quickly between the ground, rocks and gorse, and often perching. In the hour or so that it was observed, it did not move far from the place where I had first seen it, and, although it did sometimes fly from view, its uniquely contrasting colours enabled us to relocate it fairly easily. It was harassed periodically by the two Stonechats, which were almost certainly nesting in the gorse and which much resented the presence of the intruder, but it showed a marked reluctance to stray any great distance, favouring the rocks as perching places. Our last view of the bird was just before 15.00 GMT, and, despite extensive searches by others later that afternoon and again during the following day, it was not seen again. The news was not immediately broadcast, as it was clear that the bird was no longer present, and the initial reports that the sighting had been at Strumble Head, Dyfed, on 27th April (*Brit. Birds* 81: 298, 411) were incorrect, the result of a misunderstanding. The one and only observation was at Dinas Head on 24th April.

Moussier's Redstart is a Northwest African resident, although *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (vol. 5, 1988) does state that it is 'perhaps migratory over relatively short distances, normally staying within North Africa.' Reports of the species in Europe are few and far between, the only recent

records being in Malta (the seventh record was of three together in April 1982), Italy (the second record was in Sicily in February 1987), and Greece (the first record was on 30th March 1988) (*Brit. Birds* 76: 275; 82: 21, 349). This Welsh record is the first away from the Mediterranean area.

Interestingly, while we did not see any Redstarts on 24th April, we had seen several on the previous day, and there were good numbers on 25th in the same general area. The fact that there had been southerly winds for the week up to 22nd April, coupled with what may have been a minor Redstart fall, could suggest that the Moussier's Redstart had somehow got itself involved with a migrating flock crossing its home territory. Whatever the reasons for its unexpected appearance in Dyfed on that Sunday afternoon, it made five people very happy.

Mike Barrett, 65 Squires Way, Wilmington, Kent DA2 7NN

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) and Dr Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) have commented as follows: 'The unanimous acceptance of the identification by the BBRC and the BOURC on a single circulation of each Committee was made straightforward by the individual being a male in spring, and by the series of photographs which accompanied the written record submission. The BOURC considered that the combination of Moussier's Redstart's restricted world range, the lack of any regular bird trade from North Africa and the species' several previous extralimital records from the Mediterranean made the task of categorisation a simple one, and Moussier's Redstart was accepted onto Category A of the British and Irish list (*Brit. Birds* 82: 540; 83: 475; *Ibis* 133: 218-222).'

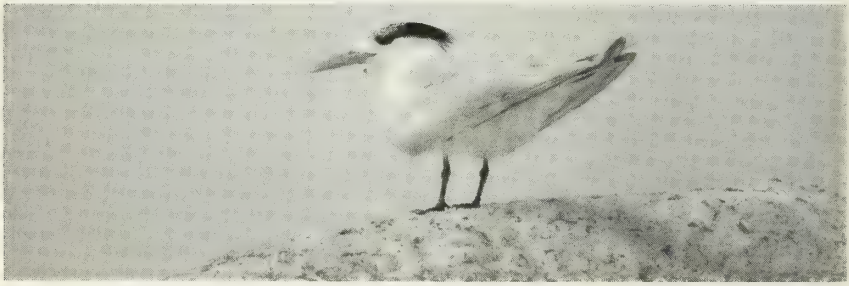
Late April is not usually an especially good time for rarities in Britain and Ireland, but the second half of April 1988 produced not only this Moussier's Redstart, but also two Red-rumped Swallows *Hirundo daurica* (Kent and Dorset), a Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* (Dorset), no fewer than eight Subalpine Warblers *Sylvia cantillans* (Devon, Merseyside, Suffolk, Cornwall, Scilly, Shetland, Kent and Norfolk), a Sardinian Warbler *S. melanocephala* (Orkney) and two Woodchat Shrikes *Lanius senator* (Scilly and Lancashire)(*Brit. Birds* 82: 505-563; 83: 439-496). Eds

Seventy-five years ago...

'ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM NORFOLK FOR 1916. The great autumnal migration took place in the ordinary way, but few notes came to hand, there being no observers to make them. The influx of Redwings on October 17th was steady, numerous flocks, some of them numbering as many as a hundred birds, passing west and north-west in the vicinity of Cromer and Holt. Fieldfares and other well-known species were also to be seen dropping in. But the most important movement was that of the Pomatorhine Skuas in September.' (*Brit. Birds* 10: 230, March 1917).

Mystery photographs

176 Last month's mystery photograph (colour plate 31, repeated here in black-and-white) was obviously a sea tern *Sterna*. No gull (Laridae) has the long-headed, long-billed appearance or crested rear crown shown by this bird. The thick, long bill with obvious gonydeal angle and the generally heavy build would have brought most readers to the conclusion that it is one of the five 'orange-billed' large terns on the Western Palearctic list.



Since the photograph was reproduced in colour, it should have been relatively easy to dismiss at least one of these five species: Caspian Tern *S. caspia* has its bill deep red with a dusky subterminal area, although juveniles can have an orange component to the red.

Elimination of the other four rests primarily on bill colour and structure, although ageing the bird is of initial importance as juveniles of all species have the bills considerably duller, and, indeed, often appreciably shorter, than adults. The absence of obvious dark markings on the wing-coverts and the grey primaries (latter become blackish with wear) show that it is an adult, and that the bill therefore is at maximum growth. Having eliminated the possibility of its being a dull-billed juvenile, it is seemingly straightforward to assume that, as only one species has a greenish-yellow bill, the Crested Tern *S. bergii*, we have a definite identification.

Observers familiar with Crested Tern in the Western Palearctic will, however, have realised quickly that the mystery tern does not have the distinctive, dark, slate-grey upperparts of Crested Tern, which enables it to be picked out at long range from amongst tern flocks on the Red Sea coast long before the bill is seen or accurate size assessment can be made. Although this could be explained by the effect of light intensity or viewing angle, this does not seem a likely explanation, judging by the general colour tone of the photograph.

The mottled forecrown shows that the bird is not in full breeding plumage; could this account for the dull bill colour? Putting aside bill colour for a while, we shall have to work on other possibilities.

Elegant Tern *S. elegans* does not have the heavy build of this tern and, importantly, its bill is proportionately longer and finer than those of the other orange-billed terns, with stronger decurvature to the upper mandible. Our bird has a markedly decurved upper mandible, but the bill

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 112-114, March 1992]

is far too stout and deep-based for an Elegant, which incidentally never shows any greenish tinge to the bill and always has an orange component to its colour.

Lesser Crested Tern *S. bengalensis* has a deeper-based bill than Elegant and can show a slight decurvature of the upper mandible, but the bill appears relatively slighter and more finely-pointed than that of the mystery tern, more reminiscent of that of Sandwich Tern *S. sandvicensis* in proportions. The bill is often wholly yellow on juveniles and first-winters, but, like Elegant, never shows any green tinge.

Royal Tern *S. maxima* is bulkier than either Elegant or Lesser Crested Terns and, being the only remaining possibility, this solution looks quite promising. Royal typically shows an even taper to both mandibles, which produces almost a dagger shape. Our bird shows a distinct downcurve to the upper mandible and a very slightly concave lower mandible, contributing to a gentle droop, which is an effect not shown by Royal. Non-breeding Royal normally shows clear white forecrown, lacking obvious mottling, extending farther back on the crown centre than in the case of the mystery bird; but, even in full breeding plumage, extensive white can remain on the forecrown, which could account for this anomaly. Once again, the bill-colour problem comes to the fore: although non-breeding adult Royals have deep yellow bills, there is normally an orange tinge to the yellow and *BWP* (vol. 4) mentions that the bill colour of juvenile Royal can be greenish-yellow, but seemingly never on adults. The build of the bird, however, and the tone of the grey upperparts do fit Royal—indeed, had the photograph been reproduced in monochrome, it could well have gone down as a Royal.

The race of Crested Tern which occurs in our region, *velox*, is the largest and darkest of the races; interestingly enough, its nearest neighbouring race is the pale and relatively smaller *thalassina* of East Africa and western Indian Ocean islands. This adult Crested Tern nearing the end of its moult to breeding plumage was photographed in the Seychelles by Howard Nicholls in March 1987, a location which reveals that it is of the pale race *thalassina*. Readers might feel it a bit naughty to have included a shot of this race (which has the upperparts close in tone to the grey of Common Tern *S. hirundo*), but it could very well turn up as a vagrant to the southern limits of our region, being regular north to the coast of northern Kenya, and this race was not featured in the papers dealing with orange-billed large terns which have appeared in this journal (*Brit. Birds* 80: 257-276; 81: 211-222). Although the bill of the mystery bird is typically stout, other individuals are finer-billed, but the bill is normally relatively longer, thicker and more drooping than that of Lesser Crested Tern and usually has a distinctive green tinge, although Heard (*Brit. Birds* 82: 413) commented that he had seen individuals with 'washed-out yellowish-orange' and 'pale orangey-yellow' bills.

Incidentally, it has been suggested that Royal and Crested Terns geographically replace each other, and could in effect be treated as a superspecies (*BWP* vol. 4, page 35).

SIMON R. COLENUTT
Green Edge, Chale Green, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 2JR





52 & 53. Mystery photographs 177. Identify the species. Answer next month

Review

Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver. By Dosithée Yeatman-Berthelot, assisted by Guy Jarry. Société Ornithologique de France, Paris, 1991. 575 pages; 271 line-drawings; 351 distribution maps. Fr.350.00.

The late Laurent Yeatman—a name perhaps not known to the latest generation of British birdwatchers—was the driving force behind the pioneer French breeding bird atlas. Scarcely had he finished it, Jean Dorst recounts, when he proposed an even more revolutionary atlas of winter bird distribution. The Council of the Société Ornithologique de France urged him to launch the new project. He hesitated, for his health was fast failing, but his daughter Dosithée promised to help, and to take charge when he could no longer manage.

No matter how interesting it was in breaking new ground, the *Atlas des Oiseaux Nicheurs de France* (1976) was, to be frank, a somewhat hurried and drab publication. In contrast, the atlas here reviewed is a most elegant volume, deserving a place on the bookshelf of both bibliophile and active birdwatcher.

Fieldwork for this atlas covered the four winters 1977/78 to 1980/81, winter being defined as the period from 1st December to 20th February. As in the breeding atlas, the area unit—the equivalent of the British 10-km square—was a rectangle measuring 20km × 27km. Of the total of 1,087 units, 14 were not visited at all and 13 were very superficially covered. Most rectangles (504) produced 61-80 species, the maximum score being 164 species for 'Rue' in the Baie de Somme. In the detailed and informative introduction, the Blackbird *Turdus merula* is noted as the most ubiquitous species in France in winter.

The main body of the atlas takes the now familiar form, with a vignette and signed text on the left-hand page and a main map on the right. The maps show département boundaries, not rectangles, but a very effective bookmark/overlay allows one to identify the rectangle in which any dot lies. In addition to the main map, small maps are used to show summer distribution, where appropriate, or distribution in contrasting winters (1977/78 mild, 1978/79 'rigoureux'). Species regularly present in winter receive full treatment; 56 irregular winterers receive shortened treatment, only nine with maps.

Some of the maps are of particular interest to the British reader. For example, the British Redpolls *Carduelis flammea cabaret* wintering in France are geographically separated from those of Alpine origin.

Fieldworkers attempted to estimate numbers, by orders of magnitude on a five-band scale from 0-10 to over 10,000. Some texts quote numbers, and a few maps (e.g. that for Rook *Corvus frugilegus*) plot abundance using different-sized symbols.

Dosithée Yeatman-Berthelot, assisted by Guy Jarry, has produced an admirable volume, but one must criticise the inordinate delay in publication, ten years after fieldwork finished. What would the present-day maps for Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* or Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*—both species extending their ranges—look like now? We are told where some of the blame for the delay lies. Maps were sent out to authors in September 1987, with instructions to submit texts by 15th January 1988. Alas, some texts did not reach the editor until 1990.

ROBERT SPENCER

Short reviews

The Pocket Guide to Birds of Prey of North America. By Philip Burton. Illustrated by Trevor Boyer, Malcolm Ellis and David Thelwell. (Dragon's World, London, 1991. 142 pages. Paperback £6.95) Very disappointing and misleading. The title suggests that this book will assist in identifying raptors in North America, but this is barely the case. The illustrations are largely of perched, classic, adult birds, certainly not helpful for flight identification, which is how most tend to be seen, and the text relating to identification is very skimpy. Misleading, considering the title, is the array of Central American species which is included. The explanation is in small print inside the flyleaf: coverage includes Mexico. The space would have been better used by concentrating on North America *or* on Mexico. I would not consider taking this book into the field in North America, nor in Mexico, and there is insufficient substance in it even to warrant a place on my library shelf.

[DAVID J. HOLMAN]

The Birds of Scotland. By Emilio Dicerbo. (Lochar Publishing, Moffat, 1991. 192 pages. £19.99) Attractively produced, but not the 'indispensable guide and reference' the publishers claim. It is based around 100 or so colour photographs taken by the author or by Robert T. Smith (though which are which is not said). Many are nice to look at, but, by modern standards, too many show birds at the nest, too few show birds in action, and some of the waterfowl look like collection birds. Many Scottish specialities are not illustrated, including Crested Tit *Parus cristatus*, Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*, Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Bonxie *Stercorarius skua*, Tystie *Cepphus grylle* and even the widespread

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*. The text provides very basic information on 200 species (i.e. under half the Scottish list). Some bird names are wrong (e.g. Oyster Catcher and Yellow Hammer), and so is some information: Puffins *Fratercula arctica* do not desert their young, Storm Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* do not breed just in the Northern Isles; and suppositions passed off as fact include the comments on sandeels around Shetland and the effect of disturbance on Dotterels. [STAN DA PRATO]

The Travelling Birder: 20 five-star birding vacations. 1991-92 edition. By Clive Goodwin. (Doubleday, New York, 1991. Paperback $13.00) Apart from four (England, Spain, Kenya and Trinidad & Tobago), all of the 20 trips described in this entertaining and readable book take place in North America. Although no substitute for a conventional trip report, it contains useful information on where to stay (with telephone numbers and prices), how to get there, relevant guides to read and even non-birding attractions. [STEVE ROOKE]

Birds of the World: wading birds. By John P. S. Mackenzie. (Swan Hill Press, Shrewsbury, 1991. 144 pages. £19.95) A coffee-table book, with many large photographs, some of which are striking, others less so. A broad definition of wading birds is used: storks and herons, as well as waders. Most of the photographs are of North American species, but European, Asian and Australasian species are also included. The text is limited to a brief introduction to each species group, together with extended captions to the photographs. The latter contain a number of inaccuracies, particularly related to distribution. The 'African Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*' on page 30 appears to be a Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus*. Only if you are a sucker for pictures. [RJC]

Memories of Three Lives: an autobiography. By Guy Mountfort. (Merlin Books, Braunton, 1991. 228 pages. £10.95) An apt title for the autobiography of a man who has made a great success of three careers: serving with distinction during the Second World War with the Honourable Artillery Company; after the war becoming managing director of an international advertising agency; then, after retiring in 1961, beginning his third and most important career, as a conservationist and founder-member of the World Wildlife Fund. The expeditions which he organised to such places as Spain, Jordan and Pakistan have been well documented in other books he has written; his autobiography, however, brings this information together in a very readable way, and also outlines the way in which modern conservation has developed over the last 30 years. [DAVID HOSKING]

The Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary 1992. Edited by John R. Pemberton. (Buckingham Press, 1991. 320 pages. £10.50; available from: Buckingham Press, 25 Manor Park, Maids Moreton, Buckingham MK18 1QX) This annual publication has established itself as an indispensable source of reference. As usual, it is crammed with names, addresses and numbers. Every single birdwatcher should buy it once, and most will then want to purchase it annually. Personally, it is the reference parts which I find most useful, and the 48 pages of topical articles could happily be dropped, or, even better, replaced by extra pages of reference material. These articles take up only 15% of the space, however, and the other 272 pages are exceedingly good value at the very reasonable price.

Alfred Russel Wallace: an anthology of his shorter writings. Edited by Charles H. Smith. (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1991. 471 pages. £40.00) Overshadowed in his own day by Darwin, despite his independent discovery of the principle of natural selection, Wallace's fascinating studies of biogeography and evolution are brought together in this anthology with his work on anthropology, social reform and even the occult, to reveal the character of 'one of the most enduring and impressive characters of the modern age'. [DOMINIC MITCHELL]

ALSO RECEIVED

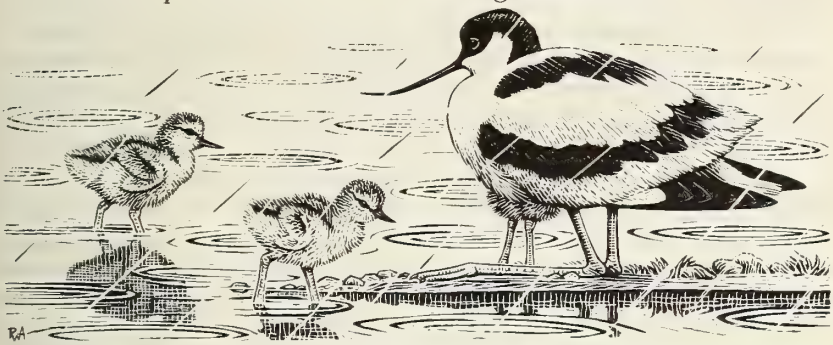
The Scientific Names of the British Lepidoptera: their history and meaning. By A. Maitland Emmet. (Harley Books, Colchester, 1991. 288 pages. Hardback £49.95, paperback £24.95)

Owslebury Bottom. By Peter Hewett. (Sumach Press, St Albans, 1991. 223 pages. £13.99)

Where to Watch Birds in Kent, Surrey & Sussex. Second edn. By Don Taylor, Jeffery Wheatley & Tony Prater. (Christopher Helm, London, 1991. 270 pages. Paperback £10.99)(First edn reviewed *Brit. Birds* 81: 672-673)

The Rare Breeding Birds Panel

Robert Spencer and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



In 1968, the RSPB Council established a subcommittee which it named the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. It was small, but from the outset had both a Nature Conservancy Council and a *British Birds* presence. Five years later, a report commented 'While many records were received by the Panel, the response was less complete than had been hoped' and, as a result of this limited success, in December 1972 it was reconstituted as an autonomous body, separate from the RSPB, financed jointly by the BTO, the RSPB, *British Birds* and, somewhat later, by the NCC. At this stage the Panel's role was publicly defined as follows: 'The aims of the Panel are to collect in one place all information on rare breeding birds so that changes in status—both increases and decreases—can be monitored, and so that essential information is not lost (as has happened in the past) through the deaths of those keeping rare breeding records secret.'

The Panel's wide associations, continued to this day, are important in that they have encouraged the support of observers who formerly hesitated to impart their data to any single body. The autonomy of the Panel, likewise, helps to secure the widespread acceptance of its status and mission, for it is thus able and willing to collaborate with conservation bodies while avoiding allegiance to any one of them. It can maintain a considered balance between the confidentiality appropriate to scarce breeders, and adequate conservation action for them. Such an arrangement has proved better able to serve the interests of the birds than relying solely on the wisdom and actions of many individual observers of rare breeding birds.

Members

The autonomy of the Panel is secured because its members are appointed in a personal capacity: to be effective as gatherers and receivers of confidential data, they must have the trust and goodwill of observers and recorders. At the same time, each is also selected because of his or her knowledge of the interests and needs of one of the sponsoring bodies. Thus, each prospective member must not only be acceptable to all the existing members, but the appointment must also be approved by all the

sponsoring bodies. Members' names are published annually in the Panel's report.

Funding

Until 1991 the Panel received most of its funding from the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) and the RSPB, but the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (see pages 121 & 122) has now taken over the NCC's former role. Small annual contributions are also made by the BTO and by *British Birds*.

Administration and publication

The day-to-day affairs of the Panel are managed by an administrative secretary, whilst the Panel members meet at intervals to determine courses of action and to finalise outline reports. A detailed report is prepared each year for the guidance of the NCC and the RSPB, and a summary, designed to enable readers to take an intelligent interest in trends and their implications, and as feedback to contributors, is published annually in *British Birds*.

Species

What is a 'rare breeding species'? Today, the Panel collects annual records for species with average breeding populations below 300 pairs in Britain. Certain species (such as Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* and Quail *Coturnix coturnix*) have populations which may fall below this level in some years, and are therefore included. For a few species, records are collected from only part of the range—for example, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* away from the Northern Isles. A list of Panel species is set out in the Appendix, to which should be added any wild species breeding in Britain and Ireland for the first time, or for the first time in recent years. Many of the species in the list do not breed with us annually, whilst a few others have yet to be proved to breed but summer fairly frequently in habitat apparently suitable for breeding. Records for such species are collected by the Panel because they may be the first indication that colonisation is a possibility. For conservation purposes, the most important data are those for rare but regular breeders.

Collecting the data

Panel data are collected from three major sources and one minor one. The single most important source is the network of county and regional recorders, who, year by year, collect reports from field observers and pass them on to the Panel. The second important source lies in the returns to the NCC of those who hold licences to disturb Schedule 1 species and are obliged as a condition of receiving a licence to report their findings. Thirdly, the RSPB and the NCC staff supply data, either from reserves or gathered during the course of specific field surveys. Finally, a small number of report forms are received directly from individual observers, often—in the case of holidaymakers—because they do not know who is the relevant recorder.

Confidentiality

Almost by definition, rare breeding birds are vulnerable to the illegal activities of egg-collectors, certain bird-keepers of all descriptions, the occasional rogue gamekeeper and, it must be admitted, birdwatchers and bird-photographers. Not unnaturally, therefore, those who discover and monitor breeding pairs of rare birds are anxious to protect them by exercising the utmost secrecy. The Panel understands and supports the need for secrecy, and county recorders are routinely enabled to indicate to the Panel the degree of security they feel to be appropriate for each record. This may be a matter for negotiation: circumstances can arise where the presence of rare breeding birds needs to be divulged to a third party in order to prevent some form of development which would be inimical to their well-being. But the accepted need for secrecy can pose problems of verification. A sight record of a rare vagrant is likely to be vetted by a county records committee, and probably also by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. Reports of rare breeding birds reaching the Panel via a recorder are, as a minimum, checked by one person who is familiar with both the habitat concerned and the competence of the observer in question. Data drawn from licence returns, or from forms sent directly to the Panel, may have to be taken on trust. Both for this reason and to reinforce the county network, it is the Panel's policy to invite all observers to report in the first instance to the appropriate county recorder.

The widespread concern, shared by the Panel, is that knowledge of breeding sites will leak out. The Panel's own security is therefore extremely strict, and only exceptionally are sites named in published reports—e.g. Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* at Havergate—and then only with the permission of the observer or recorder concerned. For a number of species, not even the county is named, but instead a region such as 'SE England', whilst, for a few, only the country is named: for example, the normal practice is to give only two population figures for the Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, one for England and Wales, and one for Scotland.

Data storage and retrieval

From the earliest days of the Panel, the physical security of the data has received much attention, bearing in mind the risks of both fire and theft. As a precaution against fire, two sets of forms are kept in safe accommodation in two different localities, with access at each strictly limited to Panel members. In the early years of the Panel, this system was entirely satisfactory, but in recent years the volume of forms has come to pose serious problems. Today, the combined annual number of Panel report forms and Schedule 1 licence returns may total one hundred for a much protected species such as Goshawk, while the sum total for all species may exceed one thousand and require three new lever-arch files to store a single year's intake. This volume of data makes increasing demands on the secure storage, and poses considerable problems when it comes to manual analysis—even the simple analysis involved in the preparation of the annual report. To extract biological data—such as

clutch size, or habitat preference—is today a much bigger task than it was a few years ago, and is much more time-consuming.

For reasons similar to this, in 1988 the RSPB, which is a major supplier of data to the Panel, decided to computerise its own information about rare breeding birds, and has been able to do so in a way that, even if a storage disk were stolen, its contents could not be read by an unauthorised person. In the light of the unqualified success of the RSPB's computerisation exercise and the unremitting growth in volume of the Panel's files and the associated problem of providing secure storage, the Panel has, after careful assessment, concluded that it, too, must computerise all its data. The system chosen is one which will closely match the advantages of the RSPB's already effective system, with absolutely no chance of hackers penetrating it because there are no lines to the outside world. Site-related data are stored at the level of six-figure grid-references, but can be plotted or otherwise assessed on a range of scales so that confidentiality of individual sites can readily be preserved. Data can be sought through the use of a number of 'fields', either individually or collectively. These include species, date, location, site survey type, grid-reference, county, region and country. The computer is free-standing, with no link to any other, and its records are accessible only to those with a key, with the password, and with knowledge of the system. Those county recorders who have already adopted the use of personal computers to facilitate their work will require no convincing of the advantages which will result from the Panel's decision to computerise.

Conservation uses of Panel data

Monitoring the breeding fortunes of rare birds contributes to an annual audit of the health of British wildlife. Rare breeding birds are particularly important in this respect because they tend to be sensitive to adverse changes in their environment. Such an audit is important because it is the route to highlighting problems and seeking remedies. It is needed not only in detail by conservation organisations, but also, more broadly, by the Government, for the monitoring of rare European breeding species is obligatory.

The conservation uses of data collected through the Rare Breeding Birds Panel are as follows:

(a) Declines in numbers can alert ornithological, conservation and research bodies to the need for conservation action, which might include further survey or ecological study. Species recently highlighted for such needs have included Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*, which are now all subject to detailed research and targeted conservation action.

(b) Knowledge of status and changes can assist conservation bodies in determining their priorities. The recently published book of *Red Data Birds* draws on information from the RBBP in setting out a programme of conservation priorities for Britain's most important and most threatened bird populations.

(c) If a species is threatened, details of changes in different areas can help the understanding of likely causes so that conservation actions can be recommended. Studies of Stone-curlews, Bitterns and Cirl Buntings have compared habitats in areas where declines have been more or less severe and suggested likely causes, which are being

studied further. Comparisons between different Avocet colonies have revealed the role of water salinity in determining whether food supplies are adequate for breeding.

(d) Conservation actions are expensive and it is important to test how well they are working and whether they need changing. This is done by continuous monitoring of vulnerable populations.

(e) When status changes are identified, legislation may be altered, such as by adding species to Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act or to Annex 1 of the EC directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

(f) The NCC uses information on the status of rare birds to assess the implications of granting licences for photography and scientific nest visits. Regional implications are considered. It is important that scientific licencees give the best return for the disturbance they may cause, which is why the NCC and the RBBP seek to reconcile returns and ensure that the information on rare birds that has been collected under licence is actually used for conservation benefit.

(g) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) can be declared to protect habitats and species. This can be done only if the information is known to the NCC. Sites supporting Britain's small population of Slavonian Grebes *Podiceps auritus* have recently been declared as a result of cases being made, supported with survey data.

(h) SSSI and reserve boundaries or management might be changed as a result of the presence of a rare breeding species. It is also possible to reach agreement with private or state landowners (such as the Forestry Commission) to safeguard rare-bird sites. Secrecy is unreliable as a security technique, as is shown by recent cases of felling of the nesting tree of Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus* in England and destruction of the breeding site of Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* in Wales. In both cases, the information was known locally to individuals, but had not been passed to anyone in a position to take action to safeguard the sites. Successful protection has been negotiated with landowners for Red Kites *Milvus milvus*, Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus*, Goshawks, Black-necked Grebes *Podiceps nigricollis* and many other species.

The way ahead

Since the Panel was reformed in 1972, the emphasis placed on its work has changed markedly. There does remain an archive element— of preserving a record for posterity—but the cost of running the Panel could not be justified for that reason alone. There is a statutory application, in that some of the data collected by the Panel are needed by Government to meet its obligations under the terms of the European Community directive on 'The Conservation of Wild Birds' (paper 79/409/EEC). Most importantly of all, however, as the previous section makes clear, there is the often urgent application to the needs of conservation—to detecting declines at a sufficiently early stage for causes to be investigated, solutions proposed, and individual sites protected. There are individual observers, and occasionally county recorders, who co-operate with the Panel by reporting numbers but do not name sites, because they believe that they can deal locally with all potential threats, or possibly from the conviction that the fewer people who know of the presence of rare breeding birds the safer those birds will be. Their intentions are exemplary, yet experience has proved repeatedly that their assumptions are wrong: both sites and breeding pairs have been lost (e.g. those Spotted Crakes and Honey Buzzards noted earlier).

With the splitting in April 1991 of the NCC into three separate bodies, one each for England, Scotland and Wales (*Brit. Birds* 84: 396), nationwide activities such as national monitoring have become the special province of

the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and it is this body which, appropriately, is now the major funder of the Panel's work. No less than the NCC, it will look to the network of voluntary observers, channelling their results through the Panel, to provide it with the biological data on which to base its planning. Two developments could enhance the excellent co-operation which already exists. One would be a more prompt pattern of reporting (a few counties may take up to 17 months after the end of a breeding season before submitting any data). The second will occur when those individuals who still cannot bring themselves to name sites overcome their misgivings and fall into line with the overwhelming majority of the Panel's contributors. Local voluntary action can, and does, give temporary security to nests. Specialist groups can, and do, play a vital role in checking all suitable habitat for signs of presence or evidence of breeding. In either situation, to allow the information collected to form part of a national picture can only enhance its value, and thus justify even more the effort of collecting it.

Rare Breeding Birds Panel, Iredale Place Cottage, Loweswater, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0SU

Appendix. Species currently monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

Species nesting in the United Kingdom even less frequently than these are also on the Panel's list

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Slavonian Grebe *P. auritus*
Black-necked Grebe *P. nigricollis*
Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Pintail *Anas acuta*
Garganey *A. querquedula*
Pochard *Aythya ferina*
Scaup *A. marila*
Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*
Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*
Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Quail *Coturnix coturnix*
Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*
Corncrake *Crex crex*
Crane *Grus grus*
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Dotterel *C. morinellus*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Purple Sandpiper *C. maritima*
Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*
Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*
Redwing *T. iliacus*
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*
Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*
Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*
Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
Serin *Serinus serinus*
Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*
Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*
Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Product reports

Items included in this feature have been submitted by the manufacturers or their agents. The reviews are the personal opinions of the reviewers; they are not the result of technical tests, but are assessments made after use in appropriate conditions (e.g. in the field). Neither *British Birds* nor the individual reviewers can accept responsibility for any adverse consequences of opinions stated, and items are accepted for review on this understanding. We aim, however, to be helpful both to our readers and to manufacturers of goods used by birdwatchers. EDS

Beecher Mirage 7×30 wide-angle binoculars

The manufacturer's notes for this product claim 'the first significant innovation in binoculars since Ignazio Porro invented the right angle prism'. They may be right: this product certainly looks very different from 'normal' binoculars because they are worn like spectacles (but attached to a head-band) and not intended to be held in the hand.

The manufacturer intends these binoculars to be positioned in front of the eyes so that the wearer can see under and around the binocular, as they are effectively 'rimless', and can then, with a swift eye movement, look through it, rather like someone wearing bifocal glasses. The image, when properly aligned, is sharp, bright and undistorted. The standard price is currently £445.00, including VAT.

It would, in my opinion, take considerable personal courage to wear these binoculars-cum-spectacles in public, and, apart from cries of derision from other birders in the Isles of Scilly in autumn, they could bring the wearer into danger when approaching a cliff-edge or some other hazard.

This product should not, however, be dismissed too quickly, as it may have applications for the specialist. Only a few days after receiving these binoculars for review, I was watching the televised Test Match highlights and there, on the screen, was a spectator wearing *Beecher* Mirage binoculars. No doubt the opera-buff would also find them valuable. This, then, is a clue to their best use.

Used in a static position, the observer will enjoy the high-quality lenses and the lightweight housing (the whole product weighs only 84 g—about the same as a Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*). This makes the product ideal for the handicapped observer, and may be of assistance to the bird artist. Unfortunately, each eyepiece needs to be adjusted separately, but the close-focus facility is exceptional, and I could even focus on my own foot (though goodness knows why I should need to do so). The depth of focus is from 6m to infinity without the need to refocus.

This binocular system uses 'super-thin' mirrors and quality lenses. If this technology is used on a more practical instrument, then Mr Porro may lose his reputed supremacy and Dr Beecher may gain it.

PETER HOLDEN

[If any reader would like further details of this product, please send a SAE to Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.]

If the caption fits . . .

Of the many suggested captions to Mike Weston's photograph of two Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 15, repeated here), we enjoyed the following:

'Decent, respectable gulls keep their sexual affairs to the proper season, and are not still wearing summer plumage in January.'
(David Armitage, Hertfordshire)

'One, two . . . oh Hell! I always forget.'
(Nicholas Barlow, West Midlands)

'You mean I'm supposed to eat that!'
(G. M. Buchanan, Lothian)

'I dare you to jump.' (Mrs O. Drake, Devon)

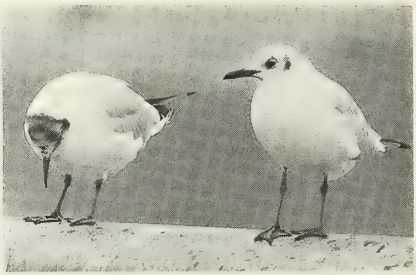
'I know bleeding prumage when I see it. Who was it?!' (R. H. Langdon-Davis, Avon)

'Now do you believe me? Your right foot IS bigger.'
(J. C. Maxwell, Strathclyde)

'I told you posing like that would make it too easy for "Monthly marathon".' (A. Morris, Zimbabwe)

'It's no use sulking—there's no way they'll string you into a Bonaparte's.'
(Nicholas Ostler, Northamptonshire)

'If you really loved me, you'd buy me a ring.'
(Keith Vinicombe, Avon)



Nicholas Barlow's caption prompted our biggest chuckle, so we have awarded him the book prize.

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Piloting towards the future Do you feel frustrated that your birding is not helping conservation? Now, assuming also that you can spare some time on a regular basis (ten mornings a year in fact for a number of years to come), you have lots to gain from the BTO through the CBC, that's the Common Birds Census. Walking a set route on your local patch, noting on a map which species you see and hear, gives a picture of how many birds of which species are present. Repeated each year, this gives an idea of how breeding populations in your area are rising or falling. Multiplied by the many hundreds of participants, this gives us increased confidence in the results. To join in, simply contact John Marchant at BTO HQ.

If, however, this is too much for you, there is good news. We have something new on offer in 1992. We know that we can improve the quality of the CBC results, by improving on geographical spread and on how well species and habitats are covered. We hope also to improve the enjoyability of the CBC for participants. We are launching a Pilot Census project which does not include the mapping method, but does involve new methods for the CBC, such as noting the birds you see and hear when walking along predetermined straight lines (transects). Another trial method is a combination of walking the line and making counts from a fixed point.

By volunteering to help in this study, you will be making a real contribution to the conservation of birds and their habitats, and, what's more, it requires only five mornings work. If you would like to help, call John Marchant for details immediately.

We still need mappers, though, who can spend ten mornings during the coming (and future) breeding seasons. The important difference between the BTO and other organisations is that we can give a purpose to your birding: it is birding with a difference, and the easiest way for you to get directly involved with today's major conservation issues. So why not join the BTO, get involved with one of our surveys, and make your birding count on a national scale?

For those interested in bird distributions in Britain, there will be a joint BTO/Linnean Society meeting on 26th March. For further details contact the meetings secretary at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ.

PAUL GREEN

BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU



ICBP news

Birding abroad Last summer, Mark Pearman, a British birder now living in Argentina, rediscovered one of the world's least-known birds, Kaempfer's Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus kaempferi*, in humid lowland forest in southern Brazil. This species was described from just a single specimen in 1929, and three searches in 1987 in the area where the specimen was taken failed to record the bird.

Rediscovering a species is obviously a very special event, but many of the increasing number of birdwatchers travelling to ever-more-exotic locations can contribute to conservation in a number of ways. The most obvious of these is the revenue they take to the areas visited. A less tangible but nonetheless valuable contribution can be made, particularly by those visiting remoter areas, if any threatened species are sighted.

In many parts of the world, very little is known about the avifauna simply because the number of ornithologists visiting the areas has been limited. This is demonstrated by the current remarkable rate of rediscoveries, and indeed discoveries, in the Americas. In addition to the tody-tyrant, 1991's batch included the Cocha Antshrike *Thamnophilus praecox*, Esmeraldas Woodstar *Acestrura berlepschi* and Western Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis*, and 1990 saw the description of at least three *new* species: Cip Canastero *Asthenes luizae*, Rondonia Bushbird *Clytoctantes atrogularis* and Manu Antbird *Cercomacra manu*.

Discovering or rediscovering a species will not happen to everyone. But if you do travel abroad this year and make a reliable sighting of a threatened species—i.e. one that is listed in ICBP's *Birds to Watch* (Collar & Andrew 1988)—please report it to ICBP. Every piece of information helps us build up the knowledge that is a prerequisite for any conservation action.

Birds to Watch, the ICBP's checklist of threatened birds, can be obtained, price £12.50, from the ICBP address below.

GEORGINA GREEN

ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Requests

Scarce migrant records To ensure that accurate and comprehensive accounts of scarce migrants and other rarities can be prepared, detailed records of the following species are requested:

inland Black-throated *Gavia arctica* and Great Northern Divers *G. immer* and Red-necked Grebes *Podiceps grisegena* (England only), Cory's *Calonectris diomedea* and Great Shearwaters *Puffinus gravis*, Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, all pelicans *Pelecanus*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*, 'Whistling' Swan *Cygnus columbianus columbianus*, Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*, Snow Goose *A. caerulescens*, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, Crane *Grus grus*, Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Dotterel *C. morinellus*, Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*, Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*, Red-necked *Phalaropus lobatus* and Grey Phalaropes *P. fulicarius*, Pomarine *Stercorarius pomarinus* and Long-tailed Skuas *S. longicaudus*, Mediterranean *Larus melanocephalus*, Sabine's *L. sabini*, Ring-billed *L. delawarensis*, Iceland *L. glaucoides* (including Kumlien's *L. g. kumlieni*) and Glaucous Gulls *L. hyperboreus*, Little Auk *Alle alle*, Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*, Richard's *Anthus novaeseelandiae* and Tawny Pipits *A. campestris*, black-headed Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*, Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*, Savi's *Locustella luscinioides*, Aquatic *Acrocephalus paludicola*, Marsh *A. palustris*, Icterine *Hippolais icterina*, Melodious *H. polyglotta*, Barred *Sylvia nisoria* and Yellow-browed Warblers *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, Red-backed *Lanius collurio* and Woodchat Shrikes *L. senator*, Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*, Ortolan *Emberiza hortulana* and Red-headed Buntings *E. bruniceps*, and any interesting escapes or subspecies.

Reports should be sent in the usual way, with supporting descriptions, to the relevant County Bird Recorder (see pages 28-30 in January issue) or, with the basic information on numbers, age, sex, locality and dates, for inclusion in a privately published book, *Rare Birds in Britain 1991* (companion to *Rare Birds in Britain 1990*, published in September 1991), to Lee G. R. Evans, 8 Sandycroft Road, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 6QL. Details of all records sent to LGRE will automatically be passed by him to the relevant County Bird Recorders (and to the Rarities Committee, if appropriate) and to Pete Fraser and Dr John Ryan, who are collating such records for periodic—rather than annual—summaries (*Brit. Birds* 83: 211).

Autumn 1992 migration survey in Israel Experienced, fit birdwatchers, capable and willing to watch migration for a minimum of eight hours a day are invited to join an international counting team for the annual 'Raptor, Stork and Pelican Migration Survey' in northern Israel during 10th August to 20th October 1992. (In 45 days in autumn 1991, some 806,000 migrating birds were counted in the skies above Israel, including 580,000 raptors of 30 different species, 190,000 White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* and 36,000 White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus*.) Participants must join the team for a minimum of three weeks, and cover the cost of travel to and from Israel themselves, but food and basic lodging in Israel will be provided free. Please apply as soon as possible, enclosing details of your previous experience, to Haim Alfia, Autumn Survey, Israel Raptor Information Center (IRIC), Har-Gilo, Doar Na Zfon Yehuda, 90907 Israel; phone 972-2-932383/4; Fax: 972-2-932385.

Announcements

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails*
*Smith *Alfred Russel Wallace*
*Trodd & Kramer *The Birds of Bedfordshire*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xiii & xiv.

Rarity decision The record of an Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* on Lundy, Devon, from 23rd May to June 1990 (and reported again in summer 1991) has now been accepted by both the British Birds Rarities Committee and the BOU Records Committee. It will be added to Category A of the official British list when published in the BOURC's next report in *The Ibis*.

The 'BB'/'Sunbird' tour to Israel and Egypt, September 1991 When people returning from diving trips in the northern Red Sea reported to HS that they had seen large concentrations of seabirds, he suggested that *British Birds* and 'Sunbird' should run a joint tour to the area. This pioneering trip took place in September 1991 and proved to be a great success. Five days were spent aboard a comfortable 70-ft (21-m) ketch looking for seabirds, whilst the remainder of the tour concentrated on the birds of the Negev Desert and northern Israel, especially the raptor passage through that area.

The boat set sail from Eilat and called in at Sharm el Sheik in Egypt before heading out past Ras Muhammed and into the Gulf of Suez. There, we explored many of the reefs and sheltered areas on both sides of the Gulf, as well as landing on several of the uninhabited islands. Most of the seabirds were found close to these islands and reefs, but a few large feeding concentrations were found in open water. Dense flocks, consisting mainly of White-eyed Gulls *Larus leucophthalmus* and White-cheeked Terns *Sterna repressa*, were feeding on shoals of fry which were jumping clear of the water in a frantic attempt to escape marauding tunny *Thunnus* (plate 55).

White-cheeked Terns proved to be the most numerous species, with just over 4,000 seen, including 350 breeding pairs. The terns displayed a variety of plumages, but the majority were adults either progressing into or already in winter plumage.

We found about 200 pairs of White-eyed Gulls (plates 56 & 57) nesting in loose colonies, some of which were in the centre of large, low-lying islands. Around 2,000 individuals were seen altogether, compared with only 60 Sooty Gulls *L. hemprichii* (plate 58), a few pairs of which were also nesting, usually singly on the edge of White-eyed Gull colonies.

Lesser Crested *Sterna bengalensis* and Bridled Terns *S. anaethetus* were present in equal numbers, and a colony of 100 Bridled Terns was found. Star birds of the trip were five Saunders's Little Terns *S. saundersi* found resting on a sand-bar and a single Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus*. Originally thought to be a subspecies, this dusky version of Audubon's Shearwater *P. lherminieri* is now generally considered to be a full species, and, if accepted, this record will constitute the first for Egypt.

55. Feeding frenzy of White-eyed Gulls *Larus leucophthalmus* and White-cheeked Terns *Sterna repressa*, Red Sea, September 1991 (*Sunbird*)









56 & 57. Top & centre, adult White-eyed Gulls *Larus leucophthalmus*, Red Sea, September 1991 (*Sunbird*)

58. Bottom, adult Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii*, Red Sea, September 1991 (*Sunbird*)

Sooty Falcons *Falco concolor* were reasonably common, and we saw 13 pairs and found one nest (almost in the middle of a White-eyed Gull colony) with a two-week-old chick. Migrants seen ranged from Rüppell's *Sylvia rueppelli* and Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* (which landed on the boat) to large flocks of Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* and Black Storks *Ciconia nigra*. There was also a steady stream of Marsh *Circus aeruginosus*, Pallid *C. macrourus* and Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* crossing the Gulf to the Egyptian mainland. One highlight in the Negev was a flock of 30 Houbara Bustards *Chlamydotis undulata*.

This *British Birds*/'Sunbird' trip will be repeated in 1992, with HS and Killian Mullarney as leaders. Full details can be obtained from SR, David Fisher or Jennifer Thomas at Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. STEVE ROOKE and HADORAM SHIRIHAI

The inclusion of plates 55-58 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.

Notes



Roosting Hen Harrier killed by fox On the morning of 14th December 1985, while collecting pellets at a communal roost site of Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* on Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, I discovered a quantity of grey and white harrier feathers on a flattened patch to one side of a well-trodden, narrow animal run through an area dominated by blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus*. I picked up a particularly thick clump of feathers and found myself holding a grey male Hen Harrier's head. No other body parts remained, and the only other signs were a very few feathers up to 2 m away along the run. The head smelled of fox *Vulpes vulpes*, but showed no signs of damage other than where it was severed; the condition of the eyes indicated that death had occurred that night. The loose feathers were not sheared off, but were body feathers of the type which would have been dislodged as the bird was seized.

The field had been cut to the ground in 1984, but the rush had grown to full height and, in its dead state, lay about 50 cm deep. The head and the bulk of the feathers lay on what had obviously been an elongated roosting platform or 'hammock', a depression in the rush supporting the harrier above the damp peat. It seemed that the hammock would have been about 60 cm in length, lying at 90° to the run and 80 cm away; the end farthest from the run was whitened with harrier droppings. I have not found any great accumulations of pellets and droppings in such hammocks on the fen, showing that they are not used many times. It is likely that this was the first occasion on which this hammock had been used. Competition for places was negligible, with just this male and one female present.

This incident suggests that the Hen Harrier's instinct for roosting in rank vegetation does not extend to vetting it for potential access by predators. Several other recently used hammocks lay nearby, the nearest as close as 2 m to the run. A few of the hammocks I found the previous winter were very close to a mown drove (wide pathway), where the birds were flushed at least once by a passer-by at dusk.

ROGER CLARKE
New Hythe House, Reach, Cambridge CB5 0JQ

Roger Clarke has asked us to point out that both Donald Watson and he, organisers of the Hen Harrier Winter Roost Survey, stress that no roost-site of this species should be entered, unless with very good cause and at a time when no harriers are likely to be in the vicinity. Any trampling of the vegetation is detrimental to the birds' safety. EDS

Effect of freezing conditions on roosting Hen Harrier On the morning of 26th December 1984, at a communal roost site of Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* in southern England, we discovered a 'ringtail' (female or immature) which was unable to fly. When the harrier was caught and examined, we found that its flightless condition was due to its tail and primary feathers being frozen stiff with ice. It had rained for most of the previous day, and the combination of roosting among very wet vegetation and the onset of a hard frost had obviously posed a real hazard for this bird. We would point out that we had entered this site for another purpose, and our find was totally unexpected. On other occasions we have observed harriers showing obvious signs of icing, with primaries stuck together and in some cases laboured flight, leaving this and other roost sites on frosty mornings.

A similar occurrence was reported from Illinois, USA, in January 1982, when a Northern (Hen) Harrier was discovered with its right leg covered with ice to 1.5 cm above the toes on the tarsometatarsus (*J. Field Orn.* 54: 328).

M. C. COMBRIDGE and P. COMBRIDGE
44 Ethelred Gardens, Totton, Southampton SO4 3UA

Sparrowhawk roost The Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* is not commonly associated with communal roosting. On 2nd February 1991, however, I was privileged to be shown a communal winter roost site in the Netherlands. It was occupied on that evening by about six individuals, spread through several adjoining small blocks of fairly open silver birch *Betula pendula* woodland, within a coastal area of open farmland and creeks where no Sparrowhawks breed.

The birch woodland seemed to be used exclusively, in preference to an adjoining mature conifer plantation. The roosting Sparrowhawks were well separated, one bird to each small area of wood (but I was informed that there have been exceptional instances of two using the same tree and even the same branch). In the calm conditions prevailing at the time, the Sparrowhawks were perched on semi-horizontal branches not necessarily close to the trunk and about 3-5 m above the ground. I was informed that they roost lower in a fresh wind (so that the perch sways less, or for better shelter?) and that certain trees are favoured. The roosting places were characterised by splashes of white droppings beneath them.

59. First-winter female Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* at roost, Netherlands, December 1989 (*Cees Riemslag*)



The inclusion of plates 59-61 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.





60 & 61. Above, adult male and, below, first-winter male Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus*, Netherlands January 1991 and February 1987 (*Cees Riemslag*)

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

(D864)

"Tough and totally functional, yet elegant in the simplicity of its design"

Announcing A SPECTACLE

THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED BINOCULAR

7 x 30 WIDE ANGLE **BEECHER MIRAGE** ™ "disappears before your eyes"

NOT THIS 18 oz. 7 x 35 ZEISS

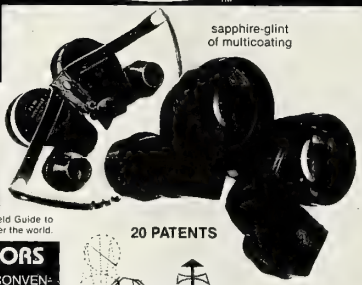
NOT THIS 18 oz. 7 x 35 LEITZ

BUT THIS THE FINAL BINOCULAR * 3 oz. BETTER OPTICS. **7 x 30 BEECHER**

EASY ON SPEC FRAME CARRY LIKE SUN GLASSES

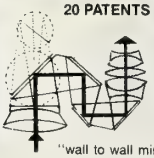


Demonstrated by Dr. Roger Tory Peterson and wife, Virginia, authors of Houghton-Mifflin's Field Guide to the Birds. Dr. Peterson is the world's foremost birder and conservationist. His Field Guides cover the world.



sapphire-glint of multicoating

20 PATENTS



The only choice for sports, theater and nature

"wall to wall mirrors"

THE SPY BINOCULAR—It Only *LOOKS* Small.

BEST BINOCULAR EVER WITH NASA MIRRORS

THE BEECHER **MIRAGE** IS ONLY A SIXTH THE WEIGHT AND BULK OF CONVENTIONAL BINOCULARS. FIRST OF ALL, RARE EARTH LENSES PERMIT THE SHORTEST OPTICAL SYSTEM POSSIBLE IN A 7 x 30 WIDE-ANGLE GLASS. SECOND, BULKY PRISMS ARE REPLACED BY SUPER-THIN MIRRORS IN A BODY-SHELL TAILORED TO FIT THE LIGHT PATH EXACTLY. FINALLY, THE 14 MULTI-COATED LENSES AND 8 MIRRORS ARE 99% EFFICIENT, TRANSMITTING ALL THE LIGHT TO THE EYE THAT SPACE-AGE TECHNOLOGY AFFORDS.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO READERS OF BRITISH BIRDS

7 x 30 **£397** 10 x 30 **£465** plus £5 P & P ACCESS and VISA accepted

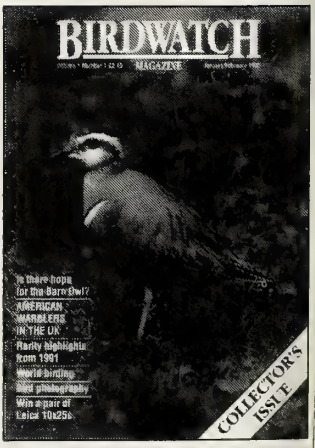
Available from Dealer Enquiries Welcome

B B PHOTOSUPPLIES 118 Wembley Park Drive, Wembley, Middx 081-903 9906 Callers Welcome

(D988)

Essential reading

Have you seen BIRDWATCH, Britain's widely-acclaimed new birding magazine? Published bi-monthly from January 1992, each issue features a wide range of articles with superb colour and black-and-white photos and illustrations in a stylish A4 format.



Issue 1 Barn Owl conservation - sea duck - bird observatories - vagrant American warblers - Jamaican birds - the first 1991 UK rarity photo report - Bulgaria - photography - sound recording

Issue 2 Birding the Western Isles - passage of Little Gulls in NW England - Great Bustards and grasslands - hunting in Britain - Ibisbills at the nest - birding days to remember - photo gallery - photography with scopes

Plus world trip report, 'local patch' feature, conservation and birding news, competitions, letters, book reviews and birding gossip

Subscribe today to guarantee your copy and join thousands of birders in over 30 countries world-wide.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Individuals (UK)	£12.90
Organisations (UK)	£18.00
Europe & surface mail	£19.20
Air mail (outside Europe)	£44.90

I enclose a cheque/eurocheque/sterling draft/PO for £ payable to Solo Publishing Ltd

RETURN FORM TODAY TO: Subscription Dept, Solo Publishing Ltd, P O Box 1786, London E17 7JG

(D987)

As many as 22 Sparrowhawks have been counted roosting at this site and, occasionally, especially early in the winter (November), one or two Merlins *Falco columbarius*. The photographs were taken by Cees Riemslag, who was first shown the roost by his grandfather and father in the 1930s.

Newton (1986) stated that Sparrowhawks are normally solitary at night, but that, in open areas, a number of Sparrowhawks may use the same small wood for roosting. Ortlieb (1987) quoted instances of roosts of up to six Sparrowhawks, and van Duin *et al.* (1984) found a mixed communal winter roost of Sparrowhawks, Merlins and Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* in reeds and willows in another coastal part of the Netherlands where Sparrowhawks did not breed. Leduc & Tombal (1989) described a winter roost in northern France of up to seven Sparrowhawks in one small area of a disused quarry overgrown with birch and willow *Salix*. An adjacent area of the quarry was used as a communal roosting site by Merlins. At Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, I have often noted a few Sparrowhawks flying, shortly before dusk, to the same area of scrub adjoining a Hen Harrier communal winter roost.

ROGER CLARKE

New Hythe House, Reach, Cambridge CB5 0JQ

REFERENCES

LEDUC, A., & TOMBAL, J.-C. 1989. Observations au dortoir de Faucons émerillons *Falco columbarius* et d'Eperviers d'Europe *Accipiter nisus* de Neuville-sur-Escant (Nord). *Le Héron* 22: 91-99.

NEWTON, I. 1986. Text on 'Sparrowhawk'. In LACK, P. (ed.) *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Calton.

ORTLIEB, R. 1987. *Die Sperber.* Wittenberg Lutherstadt.

VAN DUIN, G., VOGELZANG, F., SJOUKEN, R., STET, R., SCHOEVAART, S., & BUKER, J. 1984. Gemeenschappelijke slaapplaats van Sperwers *Accipiter nisus*, Smellekens *Falco columbarius* en Blauwe Kiekendieven *Circus cyaneus*. *Limosa* 57: 97-103.

Dr Ian Newton has commented: 'This may not be "communal" roosting in the sense that finches, Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* and harriers roost, but simply a case of limited woodland in an area of good feeding, to which any hunting Sparrowhawks are automatically drawn. I have heard of similar cases of several Sparrowhawks entering the same small wood at dusk on moorland, where the wood concerned provided the only cover in a large area of open hunting grounds. Unless the trees were very tall and open, I would have expected the conifer wood to have been preferred, at least by some of the Sparrowhawks. Their preference for the birch woods is surprising.' EDS

Male Sparrowhawk rearing half-grown young single-handed During the making of a wildlife film at Woodwalton Fen, Cambridgeshire, we kept the nest of a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* under close observation from the day before the first egg was laid until the young dispersed. The nest was first located on 12th May, at a height of 4 m in willow scrub *Salix*. The female, identified as a one-year-old individual by her mainly brown dorsal plumage, was observed on the nest on 18th May, when three eggs were present, a fourth being laid later. Three eggs hatched on 19th June, but one chick quickly died; the remaining egg failed to hatch. The female remained in constant attendance, leaving only to collect food brought by her mate, a one-year-old male. The nest was filmed again on 30th June, when the two chicks, apparently one of each sex, were 11 days old; the female still ripped up food for them at this time. On 3rd July, the female

did not appear during an eight-hour observation stint and had presumably died; during this period, the male brought only two food items to the nest, each time departing within four seconds (at 14 days old, the chicks were able to tear their own food). For the following 24 days, the male parent was seen on several days to deliver food directly to the nest at intervals of 45-180 minutes: for the first few days after the disappearance of his mate, he called softly on approaching the nest, but thereafter he remained silent; he never stayed longer than six seconds at the nest.

The male chick left the nest on 16th July, when 27 days old (which is within the usual nestling period: Newton 1986), but returned to it whenever his parent brought food. The female chick left the nest on 19th July, at 30 days old. For the next week, both fledglings spent most of each day only a few metres from the nest, often calling for food, but both returned to it promptly when their father brought food. The young apparently stopped visiting the nest from 27th July (11 days after the first of them fledged), but were heard calling in the vicinity until 10th August (24 days after fledging). This is the usual age for dispersal of young (Wyllie 1985; Newton 1986).

We can find no record of a male Sparrowhawk without a mate successfully rearing young. This male's success was due in part to the fact that his young were 14 days old when he became a single parent, so they did not need brooding and were able to tear up their own food, and to the brood's comprising only two young. The fact that he was inexperienced makes his achievement even more remarkable.

IAN WYLLIE and MAURICE TIBBLES
Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 2LS

REFERENCES

NEWTON, I. 1986. *The Sparrowhawk*. Calton.
WYLLIE, I. 1985. Post-fledging period and dispersal of young Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus*. *Bird Study* 32: 196-198.

Dr Ian Newton has commented that he knows of no previous records of a male Sparrowhawk rearing young on its own. EDS

Reaction of Pheasant to warning thump of rabbit At 17.00 GMT on 18th September 1985, in pasture near West Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset, I saw a male Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* walking and feeding among the grass about 20 m away. I was sitting in cover watching through binoculars when a rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* ran towards me; when it was about 7 m away, it stopped and, after a pause, thumped the ground twice with a hind foot before turning and running off. The Pheasant, on hearing the first thump, at once stopped its feeding activities and became quite immobile for several seconds; then, after gradual relaxation of its rigid posture, it ran off to the cover of a hedge, uttering strident, but relatively 'low-key' alarm calls, 'kwor-kork'. At the time, there was considerable background noise from aircraft and nearby motor traffic, but the response of the Pheasant to the rabbit's warning stamp on sighting me was almost immediate.

A. P. RADFORD
Crossways Cottage, West Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3EG

Stone-curlew killing adult Linnet At about 09.45 GMT on 7th June 1985, from the eastern hide at Weeting Heath, Norfolk, we observed a pair of Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* feeding a well-grown chick with unidentified insects and other food. Both parents were engaged in this activity, and the chick itself also collected food on occasions. In the same area there were a number of Wheatears *Oenanthe oenanthe* and Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* and groups of Linnets *Carduelis cannabina*, all feeding or standing on the ground within a short distance of the Stone-curlews. Without warning, one of the Stone-curlew parents moved rapidly into a flock of adult and immature Linnets, seized an adult in its bill, and killed it by banging it on the ground several times. The Stone-curlew chick was presented with the prey, but a 'tug-of-war' developed and eventually the parent made off with it; on several occasions over the next quarter of an hour, we saw the adult Stone-curlew apparently eating the Linnet. We reported our observation to the reserve warden, who informed us that, on the previous day, he had also seen a Stone-curlew make forays into a group of Linnets, although he had never seen one catch and kill a Linnet. *BWP* (vol. 3) records invertebrates, small vertebrates and birds' eggs among the food of Stone-curlews, but there is no mention of live birds being taken by this species.

PETER RATHBONE and MARIE RATHBONE
Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, near Mold, Clwyd CH7 4QD

Exceptionally tame Skylark allowing itself to be picked up In June 1985, near Taunton, Somerset, I was walking down a wide grassy track through standing corn; a number of Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* were aloft. One lark emerged from the side of the track and proceeded to adopt the 'broken-wing' posture, as if to lead me away from its nest. It allowed me, however, to get nearer and nearer, and, when I was within about 1 m, it simply lay on its side. Thinking that it might possibly really be injured, I picked it up, whereupon it lay quietly in my hands. I examined the lark, found nothing wrong, and put it down and walked away. After I had gone about 10 m, the Skylark took off and flew back perfectly naturally. To avoid causing the lark any further distress, I did not investigate further to ascertain whether it was protecting its nest or young.

DERRICK WARREN
52 Stoke Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3EJ

This observation seems extraordinary. Derek Goodwin has commented: 'If the bird *did* have eggs or young, it is of great interest as showing how the distraction displays *can* go wrong. The reason they seldom do is, of course, that, if the observer had been a fox *Vulpes vulpes*, crow *Corvus*, weasel *Mustela nivalis* or primitive human being, *that* Skylark would now be "selected out".' EDS

Presumed aberrant Redwing showing characters of Eye-browed Thrush On 26th October 1987, near Newford duck-pond on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, DJH noticed an unfamiliar thrush *Turdus* in the furrows of a bulb field. Unfortunately, he was alone, and no other observers appeared during the few minutes before it flew off. Farther along the road, however, he relocated it feeding among some Blackbirds *T. merula* in a grassy field.

There, prolonged views down to about 6 m were had, but again, atypically, no other observers appeared on the scene, and eventually the thrush flew off. This time it was not relocated. DJH mentioned this unusual bird to many observers, but found only one other (DW) who had seen it.

The bird's 'interesting' appearance caused an immediate reaction, because of its similarity to Eye-browed Thrush *T. obscurus*, but it soon became clear that Redwing *T. iliacus* was involved so, regrettably, neither of us made comprehensive notes. The notes that DJH did make clearly showed, however, that it was a very odd-plumaged bird:

SIZE AND SHAPE As Redwing, having same, rather flat-crowned look.

UPPERPARTS Whole upperparts, including wings and tail, rather plain, earthy brown; tertials rather darker, narrowly edged and tipped with pale buffish; greater coverts with white tips, forming narrow but very clear-cut and prominent white wing-bar. Broad, creamy white supercilium extended back to just beyond ear-coverts and curved slightly downwards at rear.

UNDERPARTS Long, quite broad, creamy white submoustachial stripe curled back under lower edge of facial area and extended a little way up towards ear-coverts. Prominent, quite broad, dark malar stripe ended in wedge on side of lower throat. Chin and throat pale creamy buff. Whole of breast area warm orange, marked with rows of rather indistinct, fine, dark streaking; slightly more noticeable was a concentration of ill-defined dark spots on sides of lower breast. From sides of lower breast, broad band of warm orange extended along flanks, ending about level with vent. Orange of breast looked a shade or two darker than that on flanks, doubtless owing to the dark streaking, which was lacking on flanks. Whole of belly, vent and undertail-coverts clear white, except for some noticeable black spotting on undertail-coverts.

BARE PARTS Typical of Redwing.

VOICE Flight call not noticeably different from Redwing's.



Fig. 1. 'Mystery thrush' *Turdus*, probably aberrant Redwing *T. iliacus*, St Mary's, Scilly, 26th October 1987 (left), and Eye-browed Thrush *T. obscurus*, St Agnes, Scilly, 27th October 1987 (right)(*from colour sketches by D. J. Holman*)

By an amazing coincidence, DJH was present on St Agnes the next day, when an Eye-browed Thrush was located. The similarities to the St Mary's bird were remarkable. The main differences were as follows.

The Eye-browed Thrush:

(1) showed a rather more domed crown;

(2) showed a grey-brown (rather than earthy brown) tone to the head, 'face' and hindneck;

(3) showed a shorter, narrower and whiter supercilium;

(4) lacked the long, curving, creamy submoustachial line; instead, showed a white crescent under the eye and a longer white crescent along the lower edge of the 'face', and curling under ear-coverts; it also showed a small white spot on lower rear edge of ear-coverts;

(5) showed a narrow grey band extending from lower edge of 'face' across lower throat, thus dividing the white chin and throat from the orange breast;

(6) had a clear orange breast-and-flanks area, lacking even subtle streaking; and
(7) had a yellower tinge to legs.

This account demonstrates that caution is always necessary. With only distant, brief views, the St Mary's thrush could have been claimed as an Eye-browed Thrush, whereas in our opinion it was either an aberrant Redwing or, perhaps, a hybrid Redwing × Eye-browed Thrush (there is a wide area of overlap in the two species' breeding ranges in central Siberia).

DAVID J. HOLMAN and DAVID WALSH
9 Salisbury Road, Norwich NR1 1TH

These notes and two colour sketches (shown here in black-and-white: fig. 1) by David Holman were circulated for interest and information to the Rarities Committee, as an example of an aberrant bird resembling a rarity. The members of the Rarities Committee were unanimous in the view that, while such a bird might, on brief views, be claimed as an Eye-browed Thrush, it would not be accepted. Opinions differed concerning its identity, the majority favouring aberrant Redwing rather than a hybrid, but three expressing the view that a poorly marked Eye-browed Thrush was not entirely eliminated as a possibility. EDS

Plumage and behaviour of aberrant Redwing On 12th February 1990, whilst searching fields around Little London, Hampshire, I located a flock of approximately 1,000 Redwings *Turdus iliacus* ranging over grass paddocks and the adjoining oak *Quercus* and holly *Ilex* woodland of Pamber Forest. A very strikingly plumaged thrush (fig. 1) was feeding in the farthest paddock, some 200 m away. Observations were difficult because the flock was constantly put to flight by the forest-edge patrols of a female Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. The odd thrush was present on the following morning, but could not be found again until the afternoon of 16th February, when I watched it with G. A. Allport and A. Swash, at a range of 30 m. The following description was obtained:

SIZE AND SHAPE As Redwing.

PLUMAGE Crown brown, appearing darker than those of accompanying Redwings, owing to contrast with whiteness. White crescent-shaped supercilium, narrow before eye, wider behind eye, tailing off towards nape. Eye-stripe dark brown (darker than crown), thin in front of eye, and thickening around and below eye, before tailing off to very thin line separating supercilium from ear-coverts.

Ear-coverts, throat and breast pure brilliant white, except for two very small brown feathers/shafts in region of left malar (visible only with scrutiny at close range). Between breast and belly, grey wash formed complete pectoral band, becoming rusty-red wash on breast adjacent to carpal joint. This band interspersed with streaks, extending halfway down flanks, but not onto belly. Flanks, belly and undertail-coverts slightly off-white, contrasting strongly with brilliant white of upper breast and ear-coverts. Mantle, back and rump as Redwing; wings as Redwing.

BARE PARTS As Redwing.

We identified the bird as a partially albino Redwing on the following characteristics: (1) size and shape as Redwing; (2) bill coloration and bill shape as Redwing; (3) brown flecks in region of left malar.

The bird's behaviour in the field was consistently different from that of the rest of the flock with which it was associated. It showed a marked preference for the bare, muddy areas of the paddock, often being the only member of the flock to be feeding on these patches. Upon disturbance (e.g. by a raptor), the partial albino would be one of the last to seek the

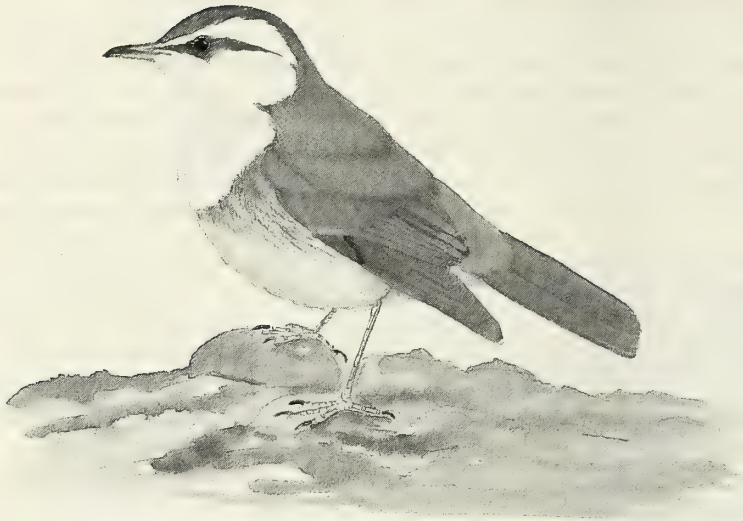


Fig. 1. Partial albino Redwing *Turdus iliacus*, Hampshire, February 1990 (*from colour painting by Rob Still*)

shelter of nearby trees, preferring to crouch on the ground instead. Similarly, once flushed, it would be amongst the last to return from the trees and recommence feeding.

Even though it was eventually identified as 'only a Redwing', it exhibited a plumage striking enough to cause four days of consternation.

ROB STILL

Mniotilta, 46 Badgers Bank, Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG26 6TB

As recently noted in relation to a partial albino Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (*Brit. Birds* 84: 516-517), aberrantly plumaged common birds can look very exotic at times. When they resemble a rarer species, confusion is possible. In this case, the careful documentation and the behavioural differences noted warrant publication. We are interested in other similar instances, but most will be filed for future reference or summary, not for publication individually. EDS

Jackdaws feeding on horse-chestnuts On 29th September 1984, in the streets of Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland, a party of three Jackdaws *Corvus monedula* was seen feeding on the seeds ('conkers') of horse-chestnuts *Aesculus hippocastanum*. In order to expose the flesh of the conkers, by rupturing the hard testa, the Jackdaws carried them to a height of about 10 m and then dropped them upon the pavement. This behaviour was very reminiscent of that of Carrion Crows *C. corone* feeding on mussels *Mytilus* on rocky shores.

CHRIS GIBSON

English Nature, All Saints House, High Street, Colchester CO1 1UG

Derek Goodwin has commented as follows: 'I have never seen references either to Jackdaws eating conkers or to their dropping food to break it. I have often thought that, if palatable, horse-chestnuts would seem a good food supply for many animals and have watched out for anything feeding on them. All that I have seen do so is the grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*.' EDS

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Emergency Zones in Perú In the light of recent killings of British birdwatchers in Perú (*Brit. Birds* 83: 515, 567; 84: 239), it should be noted that there are a number of regions there which have been termed 'emergency zones' by the British Embassy in Lima. These areas are where the activities of the *Sendero Luminoso* or other terrorist groups make the presence of Westerners extremely inadvisable. Anyone travelling to Perú should consult either the Peruvian Embassy in London, or the Foreign Office to get an up-to-date map of which areas should be avoided (these areas change swiftly). There are 'safe' areas in Perú for tourists; restricting visits to these should help to avoid any more unfortunate incidents in the future. (*Contributed by Brinley J. Best*)

British Birdwatching Fair helps Romania The ICBP's Danube Delta fund benefited by £20,000 from the British Birdwatching Fair, held at Rutland Water in August 1991 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 522). The Fair's organisers—the Leicestershire & Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation and the RSPB—and its sponsors, 'in focus', presented the cheque to Dr Christoph Imboden, Director-General of the ICBP, at a reception at The Lodge in December 1991 (plate 62).

Tim Appleton, Warden of the Rutland Water LRTNC reserve, and Martin Davies, the RSPB's East Midlands Regional Officer, have now established not only a marvellous annual get-together for Britain's birdwatchers, but also a major source of funding for international conservation. The holding of the presentation ceremony at The Lodge quite rightly provided official national endorsement of the Fair and acknowledgment of their achievements.

. . . and Spain This year's Fair, at Rutland Water during 4th-6th September, will raise money in aid of the ICBP's appeal concerning Spanish Steppe Grasslands, the last remaining extensive steppe area in Europe, where the typical birds are Great *Otis tarda* and Little Bustards *Tetrax tetrax*, Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni*, Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* and a variety of larks (Alaudidae). The main risks to the region are afforestation and intensification of agriculture, especially irrigation, which would convert the area from wheatlands and grazing to cultivation for strawberries and vegetables.

62. British Birdwatching Fair £20,000-cheque presentation to ICBP, at RSPB headquarters, Bedfordshire, December 1991. Left to right: Bruce Hanson (*in focus*), Martin Davies (RSPB Regional Officer), Tim Appleton (LRTNC) and Dr Christoph Imboden (ICBP)(*RSPB/C. H. Gomersall*)



Khao Yai closure The hundreds of European and American birders who have visited Thailand's wonderful forest reserve, Khao Yai National Park, will be dismayed to hear the news that there are plans to close all visitor accommodation there. Instead of staying in delightful bungalows (managed by the Tourism Authority of Thailand) in the midst of the forest—with hornbills (Bucerotidae), gibbons *Hylobates*, Great Eared Nightjars *Eurostopodus macrotis* and needletail swifts *Hirundapus* for company—those wishing to visit the area will be expected to stay in recently built 'resort hotels' outside the park.

This high-handed action has been mooted without advice being sought from the conservationists, naturalists and scientists, including birdwatchers, who make most use of the facilities. The presence of visitors aware of the importance and value of the area, for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, has helped to ensure that the area is relatively safe from poachers, and these same visitors have been largely responsible for the accumulation of the scientific information which demonstrates the *international* status of Khao Yai as a forest wildlife reserve. We hope that the Thai government will amend its policy, which would deprive many visitors to Thailand of one of their most memorable experiences: the reason that many of them visit the country at all.

If you want to express your views, you should write to Mr Anand Panyarachun, Prime Minister, Government House, Phitsanuloke Road, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Most Loyal Secretary Award Who was able to attend an informal Christmas luncheon for those who help *BB* through the year only because his secretary told his boss that it was 'an important Board Meeting of an international ornithological journal'? We hope that he took a mince pie back to the office for her.

Change of County Recorder Alert readers will have noticed from our list of county, regional and bird observatory recorders in Britain and Ireland that Alan Davies has taken over from Tom Gravett as County Recorder for Gwynedd (Anglesey, Caernarvonshire)(*Brit. Birds* 85: 30).

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 17th January to 14th February 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* At least 40 in Britain (about 25 in Cornwall and Devon and one in Scotland), and at least two, Co. Cork and Co. Waterford, throughout January; Tacumshin (Co. Wexford), 9th February.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* Wintering male returned to Oxford Island, Lough Neagh (Co. Armagh), late January to at least 11th February.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* Two, South Harris (Western Isles), 20th January; Dundrum Bay (Co. Down), late January; Broadstrand (Co. Cork), 9th February; two in Largo Bay (Fife), and one at Hele Bay, Ilfracombe (Devon) still present to 13th February.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* Kirkwall, 25th January, and South Ronaldsay (both Orkney), 31st January; Shirley Moor/Dungeness area (Kent), 19th-28th January.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* Killed by cat, St Agnes (Scilly), 26th January.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* Adult of North American race *kumlieni*, The Lough, Cork City (Co. Cork), 9th-10th January.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* Cresswell Ponds (Northumberland), 29th January to at least 14th February; Dagenham Chase (Greater London), 12th to at least 14th February.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* Tregonetha Downs, 18th-31st January, and Bude (both Cornwall), from at least 2nd-12th February.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Twitchline' on 0891-884-501
(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to National Bird News for supplying information for this news feature.

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Alerstam *Bird Migration* (CUP) £60.00 ☐
Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP) £22.50 ☐
Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins) £14.99 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm) £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐
Bub *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding* (Cornell) £49.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* 4th edn (Ibis) £19.00 ☐
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
*Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond) Paperback £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser) £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £85.00 ☐ vol. 2 £85.00 ☐ vol. 3 £89.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser) £18.50 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00) £10.00 ☐
Hilty & Brown *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia* (Princeton) Paperback £30.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press) Hardback £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP) £19.95 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £24.00 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £35.00 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
*Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐
Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU/OUP) £125.00 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Newman *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa* (Southern Books) Paperback £15.95 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm) Paperback £11.95 ☐
Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (British Birds) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver) £18.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xiv to complete your order.

British BirdShop (continued)

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £24.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
*Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (HarperCollins) Paperback £14.99 ☐ Hardback £30.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
*Smith *Alfred Russel Wallace* (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Stiles & Skutch *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* (Helm) Paperback £35.00 ☐
*Trodd & Kramer *The Birds of Bedfordshire* (Castlemead) £18.95 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
Walters *The Mitchell Beazley Pocket Guide to Birds of Prey of the World* (Octopus) £6.99 ☐
Warham *The Petrels: their ecology and breeding systems* (Academic Press) £29.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France) £46.00 ☐
Yekutiel *Raptors in Israel* (IBWC) Paperback £10.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) £6.95 ☐

Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

*Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING MARCH 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro a/c no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(including 17½% VAT)
£2.94 a line—average of 6 words
£9.98 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions for the price of 2
6 insertions for the price of 4

Copy Date
April Issue
March 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

has over 10,000 subscribers: a total of around 40,000 readers in 63 countries, and 99.6% of them keep their copies of 'BB' permanently, for future reference.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB530)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB793)

BIRDWATCHERS travel many miles in the pursuit of their hobby. Over half of British Birds subscribers use hotel or guest house accommodation. Phone 0621 815085 for advertising details. (BB681)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB766)



(BB963)

N. W. NORFOLK COAST – Snettisham. Two warm and pretty cottages (Tourist Board 'Commended' – 4 key). Sleeps 4. Ideally situated close to major bird reserves. Averil Campbell. Tel. 0485 541179. (BB938)

WELLS, NORFOLK. 'The Cobblers' Guest House. Central heating, H&C, tea and coffee facilities and TVs in all rooms. Tel: (0328) 710155/711092. (BB981)

EXMOOR. Peaceful s/catering c/heated holiday homes in National Trust Village. Marshes, woods and moorland—rich in birdlife. Reduced spring/autumn terms. Open all year. Resident Proprietors, Pack Horse, Allerford, nr Minehead. Tel: 0643 862475. (BB026)



FULLY EQUIPPED HOLIDAY FLAT in private house, suitable for married couple. Borders of Bournemouth/Christchurch, convenient for shops and buses, 7 minutes by car to sea, and 15 minutes to Bournemouth centre. Terms from £80 weekly. 23 Exton Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5QF. (BB047)



NORFOLK, SALTHOUSE – Comfortable Flint Cottage. Equipped for owner, sleeps 4, enclosed garden, view over Saltings, 10 minutes beach. (0638) 500385. (BB086)

GRACIOUS GEORGIAN HOUSE in private grounds. Central to the Yorkshire Dales, Gouthwaite, Scar and Angram reservoirs. High standard of accommodation. Private bathrooms. Interesting home cooking. Friendly quiet atmosphere. E.T.B. 3 crown commended. Residential licence. Ideal birdwatching area. Sae: brochure: Mrs P. B. Garforth, Grassfields Country House Hotel, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate. Tel: Harrogate 711412. (BB088)

SLAPTON— Well equipped, self-contained wing/bungalow in 1/2 acre. Sleeps 4-6. Seaview. Beautiful beaches. Nature reserve. Dartmouth 7 miles. Pets welcome. From £110. Tel: (0548) 580952 for brochures, SAE 'Hillcrest', Wood Lane, Slapton, Kingsbridge, Devon. (BB030)

FILEY, YORKSHIRE. A warm welcome awaits you at our tastefully furnished guest house situated within a minute of the Country Park – Brig and Dams nature reserve, and 25 minutes from Flamborough Head. Good home cooking (vegetarians catered for). Run by local birder & family with up-to-date local information available. Ravine Cottage Guest House. Tel: Scarborough (0723) 512595/514656 (special rates for BB readers). (BB113)

NORFOLK, GT YARMOUTH. Comfortable, spacious, ground floor flat, sleeps 4, parking facilities. £100 p.w. (0932 561560). (BB084)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB098)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB097)

SCOTLAND

SPEY VALLEY. Maureen and Larry once again invite guests to sample their highland hospitality. Set in five acres, our home has uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. Bird register available. Good home cooking and a warm welcome await you. D/B/B £130 p.w. (All rooms en-suite). Brochure: Maureen Taulbut, "Braes of Duthil', Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3ND. 047984 395. (BB879)

ALL OVER SCOTLAND. Comfortable cottages and chalets in attractive locations throughout Scotland. Stamp please for free 84-page colour brochure. Holiday Cottages (Scotland) Ltd, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9JD. Tel: 08357 481. (BB936)

STRATHSPEY SELF CATERING. 1 crown to 5 crowns highly commended. Colour brochure from S.S.C., Ballingtomb Cottages, Dulnain Bridge PH26 3LS. Tel. 047 985 322. (BB937)

THE STRATHSPEY BIRDING CENTRE. Guest house run by birders for birders. Latest sightings and helpful information, plus daily bird trips. BB&EM. Details from 'Heatherlea', Deshar Road, Boat of Garten, Inverness PH24 3BN or ring 0479 83674. (BB010)

GALLOWAY. Hills, lochs, forests and sea. Speciality, birds of prey and waterfowl. High quality self-catering houses, cottages, flats. Details G. M. Thomson & Co, 27 King Street, Castle Douglas. 0556 2973. (BB964)

ISLE OF ISLAY, HEBRIDES. Five superbly equipped cottages, open throughout year. Perfect situation with views, minutes to charming village. Short drive to RSPB reserve at Gruinart. Brochure: Mrs Sarah Roy, Lorgba Holiday Cottage, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll. Tel: 049 685/208. (BB999)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503. (BB089)

OSPREY VISITORS to Loch Garten & Abernethy? Locheil GH offers BB: £11.50; DBB: £18.50; or self-cater Cottage (sleeps 6) rental £22 nightly, and Chalet (sleeps 4) £17 nightly. For details +150 birdlist, walks, slide-talks, etc., write: Locheil, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire. Tel: 047 983 603. (BB986)

ELLARY ESTATE—MOST ATTRACTIVE choice of self-catering cottages and chalets situated on the shores of Loch Caolisport. While you are at Ellary you are free to go wherever you please. There are hill walks, many lochs and burns where you can fish, numerous wildlife, birds, flowers, etc. The perfect location for the true country lover. For full colour brochure please write to: The Booking Office, Ellary 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PA. Tel: 08803 232/209 or 054685 223. (BB983)

GALLOWAY. Country cottage, sleeps 4. Midway Glen Trool/coast. 0858 880709. (BB041)

ISLE OF MULL. A stable converted into two warm, comfortable flats. Frachadil Farm, Calgary. Tel: 068 84 265 or (0453) 833323. (BB037)

ISLE OF GIGHA, Argyllshire. For a holiday surrounded by natural beauty, sandy beaches, exotic gardens, birds, wild flowers, good food and comfortable accommodation. Also self catering accommodation. Please contact Mrs. McSporran, Post Office House 058-35 251. (BB036)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £48.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB965)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB067)

ISLAY, GEESE. Warm cottages sleep 8, 7 or 2. Lady Wilson, Cala na Ruadh, Port Charlotte. Tel: 289 (BB943)

NORTH BERWICK. Family run hotel with warm, friendly atmosphere, comfortable rooms and home cooking. Open all year round. Overlooking Craigleith Rock and within easy reach of Bass Rock, Fidra and Aberlady nature reserve. Small groups welcome (max 15). Belhaven Hotel, Westgate, North Berwick. Tel: (0620) 3009 for brochure. (BB758)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

SEE PUFFINS, skuas, seals and a lot more. Private boat takes you among otherwise inaccessible colonies. A nature-lover's dream. Full board in castle, or stay in self-catering cottages. Send for details: Balfour Castle, Shapinsay, Orkney. Tel: 085 671 282. Fax: 0856 5039. (BB107)

BOAT OF GARTEN, OLD FERRYMAN'S HOUSE. BB £13.50, DBB £22, PL £3, Bird register. Open fire in sitting room. Few minutes walk to RSPB reserve. Tel: 047983 370. (BB112)

WALES

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB009)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest-House standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB083)

IRELAND

IRISH COTTAGE Magnificent situation on Dingle peninsula, Kerry. Sea and mountain birds, unspoilt beaches, countryside full of flowers, quietness. Mod cons, sleeps 4. £99-£162 weekly plus electricity. Gerrards Cross (0753) 883082. (BB044)

OVERSEAS

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB051)

S. E. SPAIN – comfortable house, convenient major wetlands. All mod cons. Sleeps 3/4. Bird list and details. Tel: 0233 628547. (BB021)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

OVER HALF of British Birds subscribers travel abroad birdwatching each year, averaging 19 days per trip. To reach this audience, phone 0621 815085 for advertising rates. (BB682)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237
100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS
'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)
BEST QUOTES / 1992 GROUP RATES
(BB007)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May – variety of accommodation – trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB877)

WILDWINGS

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£139
CARIBBEAN	£329
C. & S. AMERICA	£409
AFRICA	£99
N. AMERICA	£169
ASIA	£299
AUS/NZ	£399

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTICA & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2795. pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757 MON. - FRI.
ABTA 65077

(BB048)

PAPA WESTRAY, ORKNEY

An island with superb birdlife, rare plants, seals and archaeology. Europe's largest tern colony.

For information on travel/accommodation:

B.B., Papay Community Co-operative Ltd, Beltane House, Papa Westray, Orkney.
Telephone 08574 267 (BB008)

ERYRI BIRDS



Come birdwatching with us in 1992

S. MOROCCO	– MARCH
S. SPAIN	– MAY & SEPTEMBER
N. GREECE	– MAY & SEPTEMBER
E. AUSTRIA	– MAY/JUNE

Informal small group holidays with experienced guides

Send for a brochure to:
Colin Thomas,
24 Tan-y-Bwlch Rd, Llanllechid, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
Tel: (0248) 600167 (BB090)

Flamingo Holidays

TAKING BIRDWATCHERS TO EUROPE AND BEYOND

SIBERIA • NEPAL • THE GAMBIA
MALLORCA • CAMARGUE
EGYPT • DANUBE DELTA • ICELAND

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS IN SMALL GROUPS WITH EXPERT LEADERS

FREE BROCHURE, PHONE OR WRITE TO:
0532 586555 (24 Hour)
59 HUNGER HILLS DRIVE, LEEDS LS18 5JU

(BB085)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

NEW ZEALAND

For the best of NZ birding, write Nature Quest New Zealand. Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand fo custom departures or details of self drive consultancy.
Tel: & Fax: (03) 489 8444
(BB082)

WILD BIRDS DOWN UNDER

TOURS FOR BIRDOS 1992/93
Sydney & The Bush Mar 21 - Apr 5
New Guinea May 31 - June 14

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA -
The Kimberleys July 2 - 16
Darwin & Kakadu July 17 - Aug 1
Cairns/Atherton Tableland Aug 15 - 29
Cairns To Cape York Sept 4 - 19

NEW ZEALAND -
Southern NZ & Stewart Is. Oct 9 - 18
Wild Birds NZ-wide Oct 31 - Nov 14

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH -
Stewart Island Dec 13 - 19
Chatham Islands Jan 18 - 26, 1993

AUSTRALIA -
The South East Mar 6 - 21, 1993
Sydney & The Bush Mar 27 - Apr 11

Send for individual itineraries to:-
WILD BIRDS DOWN UNDER
Box 1, Tarras,
Otago, New Zealand
Andy Anderson
Ph 64-3-445 2825
Fax 64-3-443 8876

(BB100)

BIRDS OF SPEYSIDE: A week of crossbills, crested tits, ospreys and lots more; small group with very experienced leader. Also departures to ISLAY, OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND. Write to: Natureguide (Caledonia) Shiresmill, Dunfermline KY12 8ER. (BB050)



'WILD SIERRAS & LAGUNAS IN EXTREMADURA & LA MANCHA'
8 days from May 1 1992
£735 inclusive of all excursions

BRANTA HOLIDAYS
7 Wingfield Street, London SE15 4LN
071-635 5812 (day)
071-629 1257 (evening)

(BB114)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 100B SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA

PHILIP MAHER
INLAND BIRD TOURS

STRZELECKI TRACK TOUR 12-27 Sept. (S.W.-Q'ld; N.W.-N.S.W.; N.E.-S.A.; N.W.-Vic.). Inland endemics, 200+ species including 4 sp Grasswren, grey & black Falcon, Plainswanderer, Inland Dotteral (camping).

SOUTH-EAST AUST. 2-13 Oct. All S.E. endemics, 300+ species including Superd Lyrebird, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Powerful Owl. Pelagic trip. Optional 4-day Tasmanian extension (camping or accommodated).

KAKADU/GULF COUNTRY 1-30 June.

Further information:
PHILIP MAHER, 94 Hunter Street, Deniliquin 2710 N.S.W. Australia
Ph. (058) 813378. (BB979)

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

ADVENTURES WITH BIRDS

Small-Group Birding

Enjoy Morocco's desert birds (£925), Sweden's Owls (£1045), Israel's wintering raptors (£825), the Danube delta (£895), Egypt (£875) etc.... in groups of 6 or less. Unbeatable value.

For details of these and many other special holidays, contact....

GOSTOURS

29 Marchwood Road Sheffield S6 5LB
Tel: 0742 334171

(BB081)

BIRD INFORMATION

PHONE-LINES

Latest rare bird news:
0891-884-501
Latest Rarities Committee* decisions:
0891-884-522
(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times)
* The Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss – Germany* (BB931)

ALL THE RARE BIRD NEWS AS SOON AS IT BREAKS!
paged directly to the screen of your pocket pager . . . Nationwide
RARE BIRD ALERT
details TEL: FREE! 0800 246 246
(BB972)

BIRD REPORT

HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1990. 214 pp plus colour plates. Regular features plus many papers inc. 10 first sightings, Status of Oriental White Stork, Penduline Tit 'Invasion', Observations in Yunnan, Liaoning and Qinghai, China, etc. £8.50 inc. p&p from S. Anstruther, Barlavington Estate, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0LG. (BB988)

CAMBS. BIRD REPORT 1990, 90pp, £4 W. Jordan, 61 Lonetree Ave., Impington, Cambs. (BB001)

DERBYSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. Full colour cover plus colour photos inside. £4.00 inc p&p from Rodney Key, 3 Farningham Close, Spondon, Derby DE2 7DZ. (BB006)

BIRDS OF OXON, 1990 £4 inc p&p, from R. Overall, 30 Hunsdon Road, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4JE. (BB027)

HERTFORDSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. £4.50 inc p&p from B. Taggart, 2 Yewtree Cottages, Colliers End, Ware, Herts SG11 1EQ. (BB022)

BIRDS IN DURHAM 1990. Classified list with papers (Lesser Crested Tern, Herring Gull, Alectoris Partridges, Red-eyed Vireo). £3.50 post free from D. Sowerbutts, 9 Prebends Field, Gilesgate Moor, Durham. (BB111)

COURSES

SKOKHOLM ISLAND, off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art, Birdwatching, Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Send SAE to Dept BB, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF. Tel: (0437) 765462. (BB032)

PERSONAL

BIRDING CANADA, UNITED STATES, COSTA RICA? For information re site guides, maps etc, write to Dunnock Enterprizes 2409 Speyside Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5K 1X5. (BB033)

RARE BIRD NEWS

BIRDLINE

0891 700 222

News you can trust from the team you know

Phone YOUR News in on 0263 741140

ALL THE NEWS FROM AVON, WILTSHIRE, SOMERSET, DEVON, DORSET, CORNWALL, ISLE OF SCILLY.

BIRDLINE SOUTH WEST

0891 700241

CALLS TO ALL 0898 NUMBERS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE, 48p/MIN PEAK/STD, INC VAT. BIRD INFORMATION SERVICE, STONERUNNER, COAST ROAD, CLEY, HOLT, NORFOLK

(BB024)

BOOKS

BIRD BOOKS, 1988-1989. SAE for 900 item catalogue. Crack Books, Sawmill Cottages, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, Lancs. (BB046)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers

where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407

(BB080)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria. CA10 3JP (Tel. 09315-282). (BB066)

JUST IN! NEW NAT; LARKS, PIPITS & WAGTAILS. £30 post free. Cat. new/secondhand books avail. Books bought. West Coast Bird books, 25 Heatherways, Freshfield, Liverpool L37 7HL. Tel: 07048 71115. (BB096)

BIRDWATCHING IN CRETE 2nd Ed. £3.75 inc. p&p. Stephanie Coghlan, 25 Thorpe Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD5 8TA. (BB099)

BOOKS ON BIRDS. New and secondhand catalogue. 30p stamps. Surplus books urgently sought. BB bought and sold. Viewing by appointment. Grant Demar, Old Forge, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LP. Tel: 0732 810482. (BB004)

MEINERTZHAGEN, RICKMAN, MOREAU and LACK. Rare lines by these and other authors. For catalogue write to: Barn Hill Books, Old Schoolhouse, Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ. Tel: 0770 87368. (BB005)

MOROCCO. A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO MOROCCO by P. & F. Bergier. £8.75. Prion Ltd (Perry). Vital for travellers to Morocco. From bookshops or NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon. Tel: (0803) 865913. (BB020)

THE AVERAGE British Birds reader will spend over £100 on bird books yearly. They could be buying your books. To advertise, 'phone 0621-815085. (BB683)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:
Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP

(BB053)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB917)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE envelope to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel. 0433 630137. (BB109)

SWEDEN & FINLAND. 2 new birders guides. Detailed maps & notes, up to date (1991), essential. £3.50 including p&p. From Gostours, 29 Marchwood Road, Sheffield S6 5LB. Tel: (0742) 334171. (BB101)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Individual* BB *subscribers can advertise here FREE (up to 30 words, selling a single item, e.g. binocular, book, set of journals). Quote your BB Ref. No. and address envelope to 'Free BB Advertising'. (BB753)

BRITISH BIRDS SUBSCRIBERS spend between £300 and £1,000 a year on birdwatching equipment. They could be buying your equipment. To advertise, 'phone 0621 815085. (BB684)

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB921)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845

(BB040)

CHUBB, BIRDS OF BRITISH GUIANA, 2 Volumes (1916-21), number 218 of 250, wrappers, includes extensive expedition reports £550 plus shipping. John Wall, 19 Tisdale Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583, USA. (BB092)

TRIPOD, Cullman. Excellent condition, £30. Phone New Milton (0425) 614396. (BB091)

A. DAVIDSON – A BIRDWATCHER IN SCANDINAVIA 1954 – V. g. in torn d/w £19 inc. p.&p. Tel. 0483 766517 after 7pm. (BB093)

BIRDS OF SOMERSET by Somerset Ornithological Society published by Alan Sutton (1988). Mint condition. New price was £14.95. Will accept £10 + postage. Tel: 0395 273426 evenings. (BB094)

WORLD MAGAZINE. Complete. Vol 1 (No. 1) to October, 1991 (No. 53). Offers by end of April to Ian Keymer, Edgefield, Melton Constable, Norfolk, NR24 2AL. or 'phone 026 387 365. (BB095)

CAVE & McDONALD 'Birds of the Sudan' £110.00. Hancock 'The Herons of the World', mint in d/w £30. Delacour, Curassows and related birds, mint in d/w £30. Plus a long list of other bird books, many rare and hard to obtain. Ring anytime. 081-393 6608. (BB115)

BRITISH BIRDS VOCABULARY 12-cassette series in 6 vols. Also Sound Guides and other productions. SAE to Lewis, Rosehill, Lyonshall. HR5 3HS. (BB049)

RED DATA BIRDS IN BRITAIN. Original line drawings £25 to £75. Ian Willis, 20 Albert Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4JP. Tel: 0556 611158. (BB045)

Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002

(BB042)

'CHECKLIST TO BIRDS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET'. 245 species listed in 3 categories, plus notes on highlights. 50p + SAE. C. Herbert, 67a Ridgeway Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. (BB102)

PENTAX AE PROGRAMMED 35mm 1.7 LENS with Tokina zoom lens 35-200mm and Pentax flash 200 SA – both in mint condition. Tripod and long cable release £285. Telephone 0743 344926. (BB103)

ORIGINAL LINE DRAWINGS from 'The Birdlife of Mountain and Upland', £15–£30 plus postage. Chris Rose. Tel: 0835 22547. (BB104)

COOPER AND FORSHAW – The Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds, mint in slip case £240. Ching – The Bird Paintings, mint in slip case £150. Ring 0225 315879. (BB105)

BIRD REPORTS – Manchester Ornithological Society 1973-84, £25. Cheshire Bird Report 1977-85, £18. Birds in Northumbria 1975,1976, £4. All good condition and plus postage. 0748 811758. (BB106)

BB FOR SALE. 1978-85, complete. Unbound, indexes. Offers. Tel: 081-341 6618. (BB110)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 3 March 1992

97 **Partial breeding failure of Audouin's Gull in two Spanish colonies in 1991** *A. M. Paterson, A. Martínez Vilalta and J. I. Dies*

101 **Monthly marathon**

102 **Seasonal reports** Autumn 1991 Part 1: non-passerines *Keith Allsopp and Barry Nightingale*

108 **Moussier's Redstart: new to Britain and Ireland** *Mike Barrett*

111 Seventy-five years ago . . .

112 **Mystery photographs** *176* Crested Tern *Simon R. Colenutt*

Review

114 'Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver' by Dosithée Yeatman-Berthelot *Robert Spencer*

115 **Short reviews**

117 **The Rare Breeding Birds Panel** *Robert Spencer and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel*

123 **Product reports** Beecher Mirage 7 × 30 wide-angle binoculars *Peter Holden*

124 **If the caption fits . . .**

124 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

125 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

Requests

126 Scarce migrant records *Lee G. R. Evans*

126 Autumn 1992 migration survey in Israel *Haim Alfia*

Announcements

126 Books in British BirdShop

127 Rarity decision

127 The 'BB'/'Sunbird' tour to Israel and Egypt, September 1991

Notes

129 Roosting Hen Harrier killed by fox *Roger Clarke*

130 Effect of freezing conditions on roosting Hen Harrier *M. C. Combridge and P. Combridge*

130 Sparrowhawk roost *Roger Clarke*

133 Male Sparrowhawk rearing half-grown young single-handed *Ian Wyllie and Maurice Tibbles*

134 Reaction of Pheasant to warning thump of rabbit *Dr A. P. Radford*

135 Stone-curlew killing adult Linnet *Peter Rathbone and Marie Rathbone*

135 Exceptionally tame Skylark allowing itself to be picked up *Derrick Warren*

135 Presumed aberrant Redwing showing characters of Eye-browed Thrush *David J. Holman and [illegible] Walsh*

137 Plumage and behaviour of aberrant Redwing *Rob Still*

138 Jackdaws feeding on horse-chestnuts *Chris Gibson*

139 **News and comment** *Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett*

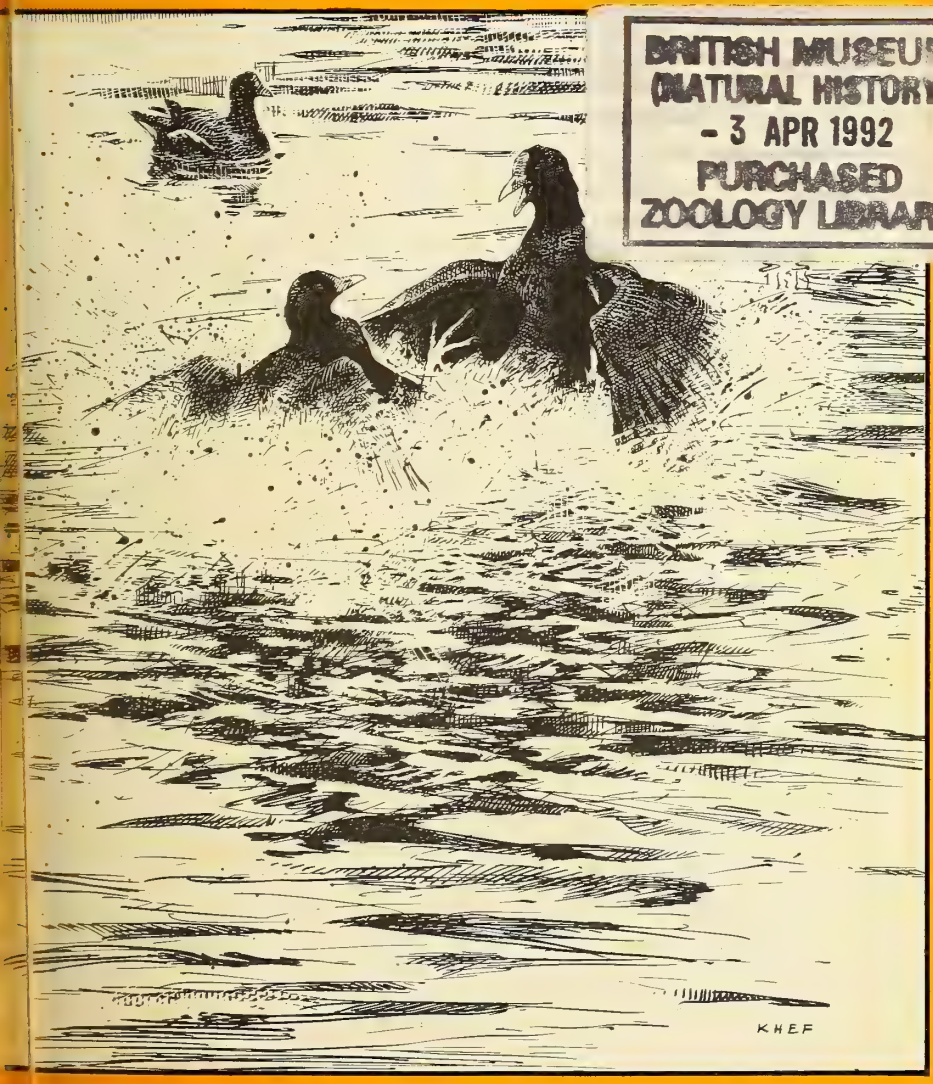
140 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 97 Audouin's Gulls (*A. M. Paterson*); 102 Long-tailed Ducks (*Mike Pollard*); 103 King Eider (*Mark Simmonds*); 108 Moussier's Redstart (*Bruce Pearson*); 117 Avocets (*Richard Allen*)

Front cover: Mallard, Rievaulx Abbey (Andrew Hutchinson): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 4 April 1992



BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 3 APR 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Raptor migration at Eilat

Supported by
EL AL
ISRAEL AIRLINES

Notes · Letter · Reviews
News and comment · Monthly marathon · Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984): names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

204 HIGH STREET
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
NOW OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 081-449 1445
PHONE 081-441 7748
FAX: 081-440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

SPRING FIELD EVENT PROGRAMME

in focus are pleased to offer our customers some of the best viewing facilities throughout the UK in conjunction with the RSPB, County Trusts and other organisations. Full optical demonstrations are presented, usually from working hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10.00 am-4.00 pm. We advise, for your convenience, appointments for the two-day events which can be arranged by writing or telephoning either of our showrooms.

LODMOOR DORSET	KENFIG MID GLAMORGAN	POTTERIC CARR DONCASTER	LEMSFORD SPRINGS HERTS.	GRAFHAM WATER CAMBS.	GRAND HAVRE GUERNSEY
AT 28th MARCH UN 29th MARCH	SAT 4th APRIL SUN 5th APRIL	SAT 11th APRIL SUN 12th APRIL	SAT 11th APRIL SUN 10th MAY	SUN 19th APRIL	SAT 18th APRIL SUN 19th APRIL
XFORD ISLAND N. IRELAND	RUTLAND WATER RUTLAND	PORTLAND DORSET	FINGRINGHOE ESSEX	BLACKTOFT SANDS HUMBERSIDE	DUNGENESS KENT
FRI 24th APRIL AT 25th APRIL	SAT 2nd MAY SUN 3rd MAY	SAT 16th MAY	SUN 17th MAY	SAT 23rd MAY SUN 24th MAY	SAT 30th MAY SUN 31st MAY

AUSCH & LOMB £
lite 8x42BGA 629.00
lite 10x42BGA 629.00
ustom 8x36B 229.00
ustom 10x40BGA 249.00
egacy 8x24 89.00
ite 22x60BGA 309.00
ite 15x-45x60BGAP 369.00

ICA £
novid 8x20BC 199.00
novid 10x25BC 239.00
novid 8x20BCA 239.00
novid 10x25BCA 255.00
se for Mini 16.00
novid 7x42BA 649.00
novid 8x42BA 649.00
novid 10x42BA 649.00

RL ZEISS £
isgner 8x20BT*P 295.00
isgner 10x25BT*P 319.00
lyt 8x20BP 249.00
lyt 10x25BP 269.00
lyt 8x20BGA 315.00
lyt 8x30BGATP 529.00
lyt 7x42BGAT 639.00
lyt 10x40BGAT 639.00
lyt 10x40BT 689.00
lyt 8x56BGAT 769.00
60 Porro GAT 1190.00
essories
nguard 8.00
Cups (set) 16.00
Cups Hard (set) 16.00
yard 5.00
e Lanyard 15.00
re Case from 19.00

ON £
DCFIII 69.00
5CFIII 79.00
3CFII 85.00
5CFII 89.00
DCF 135.00
5DCF 150.00
IDCF 249.00
6DCF 279.00
IDCF 539.00
IE 199.00
IE 229.00
5E 249.99
2x24DCF 329.00
scope II 20x60 304.00
15x 379.00
scope EDII 20x60 555.00
15x60 629.00
20x 65.00
40x 65.00
5x Zoom 65.00
MC Filter 147.00
er Hood 20.00
Kit 10.00
on Case 168.00
ng Scope 20x60GA 45.00
5x60GA 199.00
265.00

20x 34.95
15-45x Zoom 100.00

SWIFT £
Trilyte 7x42BGA 132.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA 135.00
Trilyte 10x42BGA 139.00
Audubon HR5 8.5x44 199.00
Audubon 7x35BGA 329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body 149.00
15-45x Zoom 49.00
20x 20.00
Case 15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3.5" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with 50x-80x Hood, Case 2200.00
30x-50x 120.00
80x-130x 120.00
Erector Prism 289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA 227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA 257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA 246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA 249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA 268.00
Touring 8x30BGA 395.00
Touring 7x42BGA 445.00
Touring 10x40BGA 445.00
TBS HD Body 549.99
TBG HD Body 549.00
TBS 80 Body 390.00
TBG 80 Body 390.00
20x WA 122.00
30x WA 77.00
30x WA (new) 135.00
40x WA (new) 77.00
22x-60x Zoom 159.00
Soft Case 29.00
Hard Case 35.00
Stay-on Case for TBS/TBG 45.00

KOWA £
TS-601 219.00
TS-602 199.00
20x WA 54.00
25x 54.00
27x WA 94.00
20x-60x Zoom 109.00
Case 22.95
TSN-1 316.00
TSN-2 316.00
TSN-3 636.00
TSN-4 636.00
20x-60x Zoom 169.00
20x WA 109.00
25x 69.00
30x WA 139.00
40x 69.00
60x 119.00
77x 109.00
Skua Case 39.95
Rear Dust Dome 15.00
Spare OG Cover 6.00
27x WA (screw fit) 59.00

Screw/Bay Adapter 20.00
Case for TSN 24.95
Photo Adapter 800mm 129.00
Photo Adapter 1200mm 199.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30 49.95
Vega II 8x40 54.95
HR 8x32MC 152.00
HR 7x42MC 157.00
HR 8x42MC 155.00
HR 10x42MC 162.00
HR 10x50MC 178.00
HR Body 80mm 269.00
30x WA 33.00
27x80x zoom 85.00
HR Body, 22x & case 179.95
HR GA, 22x & case 189.95
HR 45, 22x & case 219.95
HR Body, 20x-60x & case 219.95
HR GA 20-60x & case 229.95
HR 45 20-60x & case 249.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA 32.00
Classic IF60 110.00
18x40WA 24.00
25x 24.00
25x HP 27.00
18x-45x zoom 61.00
Classic IF75 140.00
22xWA 24.00
30x 27.00
22x-47x zoom 61.00
Piccolo 128.00
Eye pieces from 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60 355.00
Piccolo ED 20-60x60 399.00
Photo kits from 30.00
Cases for scopes 15.00
Macro monocular 50.00

MIRADOR £
8x32B 110.00
7x42B 112.00
8x42B 113.00
10x42B 115.00
10x50B 127.00
Merlin 60mmx25 109.00
Merlin 18x-40x60 139.00
Merlin 75mmx30 129.00
Merlin 22x-47x75 169.00
Case for Merlin 15.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B 139.95
Hanover 10x42B 149.95
Regent 8x42B 169.95
Kensington 10x42B 179.95

REDFIELD £
7x35BA 199.00
10x50BA 249.00
20-45x60GA 299.55

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS £
Opticron 20x80 390.00
Opticron 30x80 395.00

HABICHT £
10x40 Diana 372.00
7x30SLC 353.00
8x30SLC 365.00
8x20B 220.00
AT80 Body 547.00
22x WA 72.00
32x WA 124.00
20x-60x Zoom 164.00
Case 93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body 145.00
Spacemaster GA Body 165.00
15x-45x Zoom 49.00
22x WA 32.00
Case 15.00
Photo Kit 30.00

VELBON £
Victory 350 39.95
D-500 59.95
D-600 69.95
D-700 79.95

CULLMAN £
Hide Clamp 49.95
Shoulder Pod 29.95
Q/R System 10.95
Q/R Plate 5.95

SLIK £
Master D-3 89.95

MANFROTTO £
290/128 95.00
290B/128 99.00
144/128 105.00
144B/128 109.00
Tripod Strap 10.95
Q/R Plate 5.95
Monopod 079B 29.95
Monopod 134B 29.95

BENBO £
Trekker with Cullman Video Head 89.95
Trekker Monopod 29.95
95 Monopod 34.95

ACCESSORIES £
Car Window Mount 22.00
Universal Mount 22.00
Hide Clamps 38.00
Rainguards from 3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth 3.00
Tripod Strap 6.95
Lanyards from 4.00
Dust Away 3.95
Double Eyepiece Case 9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case 24.50

CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a 3 year period from date of purchase. In the event of equipment failure for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. We are a completely independent company whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

MAIL ORDERS
Just add £2.00 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa cards will be despatched same day.

SECONDHAND
Instruments always available. Turnover is fast but we now produce a comprehensive list. Phone or write.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes.

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK)
We are 500 yds east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car park.

HOW TO FIND US (BARNET)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECONDHAND SCOPES. Ask for details.

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK at Briarfields Hotel, Titchwell when goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased.

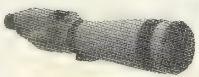
INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED ZEISS, LEITZ, KOWA, B&L etc. Ask for details.

As the UK's number one birdwatching optics supplier, **in focus** is proud to sponsor the 'County Bird Race' and 'The British Birdwatching Fair'. As a result of these and other ventures, **in focus** has directly contributed over £30,000 to local, national and international bird conservation over the last twelve months. British Birdwatching Fair (D104)

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE – TEL 0703 221597

SAME DAY DESPATCH – 14 DAY HOME TRIAL – MAJOR UK STOCKISTS

SCOPES



KOWA

TSN-601 Body	£179
TSN-602 Body	£179
TSN 1 Body	£295
TSN 2 Body	£295
TSN 3 Body	£555
TSN 4 Body	£555
20 x WA	£96
30 x WA	£119
40 x	£63
20-60 x Zoom	£139

Cases, Photo adaptors etc. also stocked.

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x	£379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x	£554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x	£629.95

SWAROVSKI

AT 80 Body	£547
22 x WA	£72
20-60 x Zoom	£164
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£190

GREENKAT

Kestrel 20 x 60 Waterproof	£209
Kestrel 30 x 60 Waterproof	£219

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON PACKAGE DEALS • PHONE FOR UK'S LOWEST PRICES

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£119.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 B	~~£209.95~~	£169.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50		£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!



LEICA

8 x 20 BC	£199
8 x 20 BCA	£226
10 x 25 BC	£226
10 x 25 BCA	£239
7 x 42 BA	£628
8 x 42 BA	£628
10 x 42 BA	£628

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£236
10 x 25 B	£259
8 x 20 BGA	£305
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£509
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£589
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£729
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£599
7 x 50 BGAT* P	£599
8 x 20B (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B (New Style)	£320

SWIFT

Saratoga 8 x 42	ONE ONLY £129
Osprey 7.5 x 42	ONE ONLY £135
Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£199
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism	ONE ONLY £269

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£629
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
DWCF 8 x 24 Compact	£151
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7-15 x 35 Zoom	£119
7 x 21 x 50 Zoom	£139
7 x 50 STD	£104

LCE

SECONDHAND

BINOS

Zeiss Notarem 8 x 32B	£109
Heron 8 x 40	£39
Panorama Merlin 8 x 40	£49
Zeiss Dialyt 8 x 30B	£149

SCOPES

Optolyth 30 x 75 Drawscope c/w Case	£199
Opticron HR60 c/w 22x W	£125

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Slik D3	£89.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95

Most Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate), opposite the Tudor House Museum

5% RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- ☆ 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- ☆ Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- ☆ Major credit cards accepted.

(D995)

BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 3 APR 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

SLC BINOCULAR

MODEL ILLUSTRATED 8 x 30 SIX MODELS IN THE RANGE

The compact SL model has a new roof prism system to provide a neat and lightweight binocular you can take anywhere. Like its big brother the prisms are first laser aligned then secured so they are shock resistant. This process also eliminates those slight mis-alignments which you can't usually see, but can cause eye-strain and sometimes headaches.



FULLY WATERPROOF

AT80 TELESCOPE

With a large 80mm diameter objective lens, the latest AT80 observation scope gives optimal performance even in poor light. Exchangeable oculars with bayonet catch and replaceable turn-back eyecups make for comfortable viewing, whilst ultra-fast focusing down to 6m provides a good all-round range. An integrated optik adapter enables the connection of a reflex camera for a new dimension in close-up photography.



FULLY WATERPROOF

8 x 20 B COMPACT BINOCULARS

The pocket sized Habicht 8 x 20 B binoculars represent the latest in state-on-the-art technology. Featuring a wide field of view with high-resolution image, they are the latest in a superb range of binoculars from Swarovski Optik, noted for its excellence in high quality optical performance.



FULLY WATERPROOF

All Swarovski Optik products are manufactured in Austria and carry a full warranty.

For further information and a full colour brochure please write to:

SWAROVSKI UK LIMITED,
One The Boulevard, Blackmoor Lane, Watford, Herts. WD1 8YW.
Telephone: 0923 816366. Telefax: 0923 816005. Telex: 24958 SWARO G.



SWAROVSKI OPTIK

The natural choice.

(D101)

NEW COST SAVING OPTIONS Now Available



LIMITED SPECIAL OFFER Call NOW!

RARE BIRD ALERT

It's about time you discovered for yourself why our pagers have proved to be the best way of getting all the rarity news, and directions:



- **INDOORS** or **IN THE FIELD** – simply read all the latest news and directions from the screen in your pocket
- Phone **FREE** 0800 246 246
- or call Dick Filby of the Rare Bird Alert Team on 0603 767799
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIP** Get a pager, **NOW!**
- Please Phone in sightings of rarities to the Rare Bird Alert **HOTLINE** 0426 952 952. Hotline calls charged at local rates. A donation to conservation for every call
- £10 donated to RSPB for every pager ordered
- **NEWS OF ALL BB RARITIES – EVERY DAY** (and many sub-rarities too), with full directions when a bird turns up or if it moves
- **REMEMBER** once you've paid your basic rental there are no extra charges, no matter how many messages we send you. Here are just a few of the hundreds we've sent:

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN ALL OF THESE . . .

28-Sep	22:46	007	**WHITES THRUSH** Brora HIGHLAND c5m N of Golspie, present 2 days . . .
28-Sep	22:46	008	 Turn W off A9 at N end of Brora on minor rd to distillery . . .
28-Sep	22:47	009	 past distillery turn right at 1st X roads. 1/2m up rd to . . .
28-Sep	22:47	010	 farm, at NC 894 061. Bird frequents area around farm and . . .
28-Sep	22:47	011	 the gulley just to the N.
29-Sep	10:25	003	**WHITES THRUSH** still at Brora HIGHLAND, but elusive NC 894 061
29-Sep	12:16	006	**WHITES THRUSH** has been showing again, Brora, HIGHLAND.
29-Sep	18:24	010	**WHITES THRUSH** showing well until mid-afternoon, but not since.
30-Sep	10:54	004	No sign of the **WHITES THRUSH** so far today. We'll keep you fully . . .
30-Sep	10:54	005	 posted if it re-appears, it is still being looked for.
17-Nov	12:19	004	**MUGIMAKI FLYCATCHER** imm male Stone Creek HUMB present 2 days at . . .
17-Nov	12:24	005	 the small wood c1m SE along the river bank at TA 250 175 . . .
17-Nov	12:24	006	 Leave Hull E on A1033. At Ottringham turn S on minor rd . . .
17-Nov	12:24	007	 to Sunk Island where you turn W at X roads to Stone Creek . . .
17-Nov	12:24	008	 Park sensibly at end of road. Walk SE (left) along bank.
18-Nov	09:57	004	Negative news **MUGIMAKI FLYCATCHER** not seen up until 9.15 at least.
23-Feb	08:08	001	**GYR FALCON** Sheppey KENT this morning on post till 7.45 just S of . . .
23-Feb	08:08	002	 Capel Hill Farm. Flew off lazily, mobbed by Hen Harriers . . .
23-Feb	08:18	003	 Farm is at TR 007 696 on minor rd to Harty Ferry, off B2231 . . .
23-Feb	08:18	004	 at the E end of Sheppey, c1.5m SW of Leysdown on Sea.
23-Feb	08:30	005	PINE BUNTING male still at Dagenham Chase LONDON TQ 513 862
23-Feb	09:18	006	SURF SCOTER imm male still at Hele Bay, 1.5m E of Ilfracombe DEVON
23-Feb	11:08	007	**GYR FALCON** Sheppey showing NOW from minor rd between Capel Fleet . . .
23-Feb	11:08	008	 and Harty Ferry (Same area as earlier)
23-Feb	11:38	009	RING-BILLED GULL 2yr still around UEA Norwich NORFOLK
23-Feb	11:43	010	AMERICAN WIGEON drake still Vane Farm RSPB res Loch Leven TAYSIDE
23-Feb	12:06	011	FERRUGINOUS DUCK female still Allerton Bywater YORKS SE 416 279
23-Feb	12:45	012	**GYR FALCON** Sheppey still showing from minor rd at Capel Fleet
23-Feb	13:14	013	**GYR FALCON** Sheppey showing from the S side of Leysdown at 1300 . . .
23-Feb	13:14	014	 E of shops turn S off main rd by chip shop into Wing rd . . .
23-Feb	13:14	015	 park at far end of rd + walk across the rough ground ahead . . .
23-Feb	13:14	016	 to view the Gyr
23-Feb	13:30	017	RING-NECKED DUCK drake still at Drift resvr CORNWALL
23-Feb	13:57	018	**GYR FALCON** on view **NOW** from both B2231 and minor rd to Harty Ferry
23-Feb	14:18	019	RING-BILLED GULL ad at Radipole Lake DORSET
23-Feb	15:13	020	YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER of race "humei" still at Plymouth Poly DEVON
23-Feb	16:28	021	KING EIDER drake still at Tayport harbour mouth FIFE
23-Feb	16:32	022	RING-BILLED GULL ad still at Ryde canoe lake ISLE OF WIGHT
23-Feb	19:33	023	GLOSSY IBIS came into roost at Stodmarsh KENT at 16.15
23-Feb	19:39	024	**GYR FALCON** Sheppey last seen today at 4pm flying S from Leysdown
23-Feb	19:39	025	Some observers consider that the possibility of "The Gyr" . . .
23-Feb	19:39	026	 being a hybrid has not been eliminated
23-Feb	20:05	027	SURF SCOTER pair still at the E end of Largo Bay FIFE
23-Feb	20:05	028	AMERICAN WIGEON male still at Lochore Meadows CP FIFE
23-Feb	20:13	029	RING-NECKED DUCK drake still at Holden Wood resvr LANCS

YOU'LL SEE MORE with a Rare Bird Alert pager . . .

Call now to take advantage of the **Special Spring Offer**, but hurry, it's strictly limited.
Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 24**

INTER-CITY PAGING

(D2)

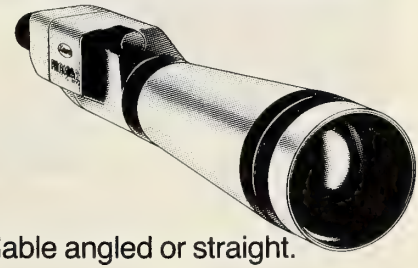


ec reasted Mergansers displaying. Nik Borrow's award winning 1990 BIY Competition entry.

"First, and most important, this telescope is optically magnificent, with phenomenal clarity and a superbly large field of view.

If you are a birder who is seeking the best possible telescope . . . the optical gain is significant, especially in the worst viewing conditions. It is an elite instrument, to be treasured by those fortunate enough to own one."

Dr J T R Sharrock, testing the Kowa TSN-3 with ×20W eyepiece, British Birds June 1990.



Kowa TSN Fluorite lens scope, available angled or straight.

Kowa A superb image

ffi ally appointed distributor for Kowa Telescopes
yse SGI Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HA

What's your view?

"SUPERB PHOTOGRAPHY" –
"Congratulations on your first issue of *Birds Illustrated.* One's first impression is "What superb photography, I will want to keep these magazines", followed~ by a realisation that the written content is also of a very high standard." *Bristol reader*

"CONGRATULATIONS" –
"Maybe because I am rather hard to please, I have never sent a letter of congratulation to a magazine before. However, this I am now doing because I think the first issue of your new magazine is superb." *Royston reader*

A "TRULY SIGNIFICANT" MAGAZINE –
"I am convinced that *Birds Illustrated* has the potential to be ranked, one day, amongst that small band of truly significant publications. Your professed aim is excellence and, by golly, what an excellent first number it was!" *Dutch reader*



In every quarterly issue of our new, ***Birds Illustrated magazine*** top European photographers and ornithologists share their finest work. Response to our first issue has been exceptional. Issue two, available at newsagents or direct from March 20, will be equally stunning.

Order your copy now.

Direct Order Form - Birds Illustrated magazine

Please send me the Spring issue of Birds Illustrated. I enclose a cheque for £2.95.

Name:

Address:

.....Postcode:

Send to: Birds Illustrated, Marketing Department, Bretton Court, Peterborough, PE3 8DZ

Copies ordered direct are limited and therefore only available while stocks last.

(D999)

LARK MEADOW-

Our conservation area has recently been extended by the addition of a seven acre field adjoining our present site. Plans are under way to re-establish a traditional hay meadow and re-introduce wild flowers. Late mowing should provide an ideal nesting site for larks and other ground nesting birds.

We are pleased to report that the kestrels have returned to their nest box in the ash tree.

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

ZEISS

x40 BGAT*P	639.00
x42 BGAT*P	639.00
x30 BGAT*P	529.00
esign selection	
x20 BT*P	295.00
x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

ovid 8x20 BCA	239.00
ovid 10x25 BCA	255.00
7x42 BA	649.00
8x42 BA	649.00
10x42 BA	649.00

OPTOLYTH

in 8x40 BGA	246.00
in 10x40 BGA	249.00
ring 10x40	445.00
S/G 80 Body	390.00
S/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
-60x zoom EP	159.00
WA	122.00
WA	135.00

NIKON

20 CF III	69.95
30 ECF	229.00
35 ECF	249.00
dscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
tting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

icoat 8x42	169.95
icoat 10x42	179.95
icoat 10x50	198.95
£15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	219.00
TS 602 Body	199.00
20x WA	64.00
25x40x	54.00
20-60x zoom EP	109.00
Case for 601 and 602	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20x WA	109.00
30x WA	139.00
25x40x	69.00
20-60x zoom EP	169.00
Case for TSN Range	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	129.00
Photo adaptor 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 25x60mm	126.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x H.E.P	27.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 8x42 RA	629.00
Elite 10x42 RA	629.00
Elite Telescope 22x60 RA	309.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	159.00
15-45x zoom EP	49.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	239.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	52.00
190 Legs	41.00
055 Legs	73.00
200 Video Head	52.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK 02	72.95
03	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

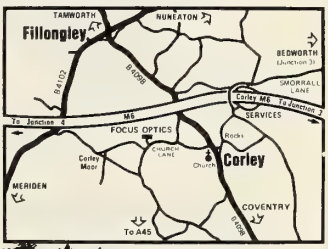
WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday-Saturday 9am until 5pm
Sunday-10am until 4pm
(Closed on Monday)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:
QUESTAR•FUJINON•FUMOTO MIRADOR•BRESSER•PENTAX REDFIELD•OPTIMA•PRAKTICA
Billingham Equipment Bags.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic.
Send for a price list or come and browse!



Focus Optics- The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!
Ample free safe parking.

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE BARCLAYCARD VISA

(D994)

Christopher Helm

new books for Spring 1992



Tracks & Signs

of the birds of Britain and Europe
AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Roy Brown, John Ferguson,

Michael Lawrence and David Lees

The most comprehensive coverage of the tracks and signs of many European birds; resident, visiting or migrant. This new paperback edition includes detailed information on feeding and behavioural signs, pellets, droppings, feathers and sculls.

0 7136 3523 1 47 colour plates 232pp **£14.99** pbk



A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad & Tobago
2nd edition

Richard ffrench

Illustrated by John O'Neil and Don Eckelberry

Trinidad and Tobago offer the visiting birder an unparalleled ornithological richness as members of nearly all the South American families can be found on the islands. Species accounts make up the bulk of this new edition with habitat and status, range and subspecies, field description and basic measurements, voice, food, nesting and behaviour covered in detail.

0 7136 3518 5 29 colour plates 464pp **£25.00** pbk

Where to watch birds in France

Ligue Francaise pour la protection des oiseaux

This latest title in the Where to Watch Birds series explores one of the most exciting birding regions in Europe. It covers 279 sites in detail and each site has a season-by-season guide to the species most likely to be seen as well as detailed instructions on access and tips on what to watch out for in different habitats within the same site.

0 7136 8107 1 120 maps and 25 line drawings **£12.99** pbk



Order through your bookshop

Christopher Helm
an imprint of A&C Black (Publishers) Ltd
35 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH

(D105)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 4 APRIL 1992



Raptor migration at Eilat

Hadoram Shirihai and David A. Christie

Recent work has shown that Eilat in southern Israel is one of the best places in the world for observing migrating Palearctic raptors. This paper describes the huge raptor migration passing through Eilat, but shows that there is plenty of scope for further research and aims to encourage many volunteers to come and help study migrating raptors in the Eilat area.

In addition, an overview is presented of the migration of raptors through the Middle East region in general.

Background

In the northern hemisphere, millions of raptors breed for four to seven summer months north of latitude 35°N. When not breeding, they winter mostly in areas south of 30°N, a few species continuing farther, to below 30°S.

The publication of this long paper in a single issue of *British Birds* would not have been possible without the co-operation of EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES.

Three species dominate the mass migrations on the American continent: Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*, Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* and Broad-winged Hawk *B. platypterus* (Nagy 1976; Roberts 1985; Smith 1985; Mindell 1986), for each of which autumn record totals have reached at least 300,000-700,000 in Panama, with corresponding numbers in total from different parts of the United States.

In the Palearctic, but chiefly through the Middle East (see pages 177-183), two main species migrate in hundreds of thousands during a single season: Buzzard *B. buteo* (up to 465,000) and Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (up to 850,000). In addition, four species each include record totals of tens of thousands or more in a single migration season: Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis** (76,000), Lesser Spotted Eagle *A. pomarina* (141,000), Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (36,000) and Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (49,000) (Bijlsma 1983; Christensen *et al.* 1981; Dovrat 1991; Porter & Beaman 1985; Shirihai 1987, 1988; Tsovel & Allon 1991; Welch & Welch 1988). By adding together the peak numbers of the six most abundant species in the Middle East, the total population is about 1,610,000 migrant raptors, but the true figure is probably well above 3 million.

Whereas some raptors migrate singly or in small flocks (usually either rare species or ones which migrate only short distances or make merely local movements, exceptions to this being some species of falcon *Falco* and harrier *Circus*), most migrate in more or less dense flocks for a short period over a long distance (3,000-20,000 km). A significant part of this passage is done under daily near-fasting conditions, so, in order to conserve energy, the raptors are forced to adopt a passive flight, soaring and gliding, exploiting the thermals that develop only over land. This explains why they migrate almost exclusively over the landmasses, avoiding large bodies of water over which passive flight is difficult. There are areas where large concentrations of raptors migrate over straits and through narrow corridors, which facilitates observation. The main West Palearctic raptor watchpoints are shown in fig. 1.

Raptor surveys at Eilat

During 1977-88, migration surveys were conducted in a total of nine seasons (six springs, three autumns). Fig. 2 shows the various watchpoints in the Eilat area.

Spring 1977 A total of 83 days was covered during 2nd February to 17th May, and 763,961 raptors were counted (Christensen *et al.* 1981). Five observers manned one or two regular stations on Coral Island and another station 7 km northwest of Eilat.

Spring 1983 A total of 107 days was covered during 15th February to 31st May, and 474,124 raptors were counted (Shirihai 1987). Two observers manned one or two stations, one in Eilat and the other in Kibbutz Eilot. Counting was neither systematic nor comprehensive, but took place mainly on days when large numbers of raptors were seen; the emphasis was on first and last dates of appearance of each species.

Spring 1985 A total of 100 days was covered during 16th February to 23rd May, and 1,193,229 raptors were counted (Shirihai 1987). About 30 volunteers participated, manning two to

*In this paper, Steppe Eagle is treated as a full species, *Aquila nipalensis*, separate from, not conspecific with, Tawny Eagle *A. rapax*.



Fig. 1. Major raptor migration watchpoints in the West Palearctic. 1 = Gibraltar, 2 = Falsterbo, 3 = Bosporus, 4 = Borçka, 5 = Iskenderun-Belen, 6 = Kfar Kasem, 7 = Suez, 8 = Eilat

seven stations daily; radio transmitters and vehicles were available on most days, enabling co-ordination of counting and preventing duplication. Great numbers of raptors were sighted west and north of Eilat, towards the central Negev, at hours when very few were seen at Eilat.

Spring 1986 A total of 97 consecutive days was covered during 15th February to 20th May, and 873,388 raptors were counted (Shirihai 1987). Thirty volunteers participated and methods were as in 1985, but improved, with a more extensive area covered (at times reaching 100 km north of Eilat).

Spring 1987 A total of 99 consecutive days was covered, during 15th February to 25th May, and 778,228 raptors were counted (Shirihai 1988). About ten observers participated, manning two main counting posts, and methods were otherwise as in 1985.

Spring 1988 A total of 87 days was covered during 15th February to 15th May, and 688,659 raptors were counted (Shirihai & Yekutiel 1991). Observers and methods were as in 1987.

Autumn 1980 A total of 88 days was covered during 25th August to 30th November, and 25,998 raptors were counted (Shirihai 1982). The survey was conducted by HS and covered the area between the North Beach at Eilat and 6 km north of it.

Autumn 1986 A total of 26 days was covered during 15th October to 14th November, and 12,357 raptors were counted. Survey conducted by HS.

Autumn 1987 A total of 25 days was covered during 16th October to 15th November, and 12,548 raptors were counted. Survey conducted by HS.

Survey methods and accuracy

Counting of small flocks of tens and hundreds was usually done with great accuracy, counting individual birds or blocks of ten; flocks numbering

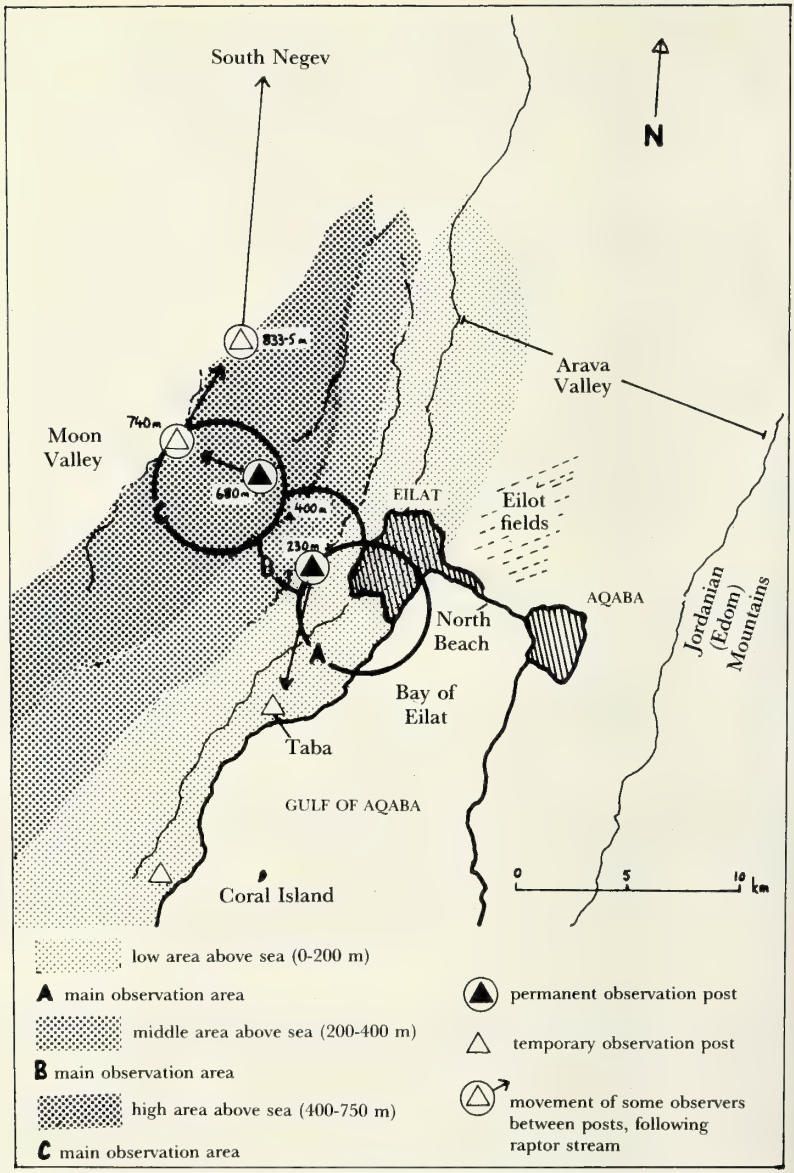


Fig. 2. Observation posts in Eilat area in spring, showing heights (m above sea level) of mountain sectors

several hundreds or even thousands were recorded (by blocks of ten) to an accuracy estimated as within 10% or better. Exact time, weather conditions, height and direction of flight, and particular behaviour in relation to the weather were all recorded precisely.

Observation points were placed along the width of the route (fig. 2), enabling good coverage across the route front. This also provided closer-

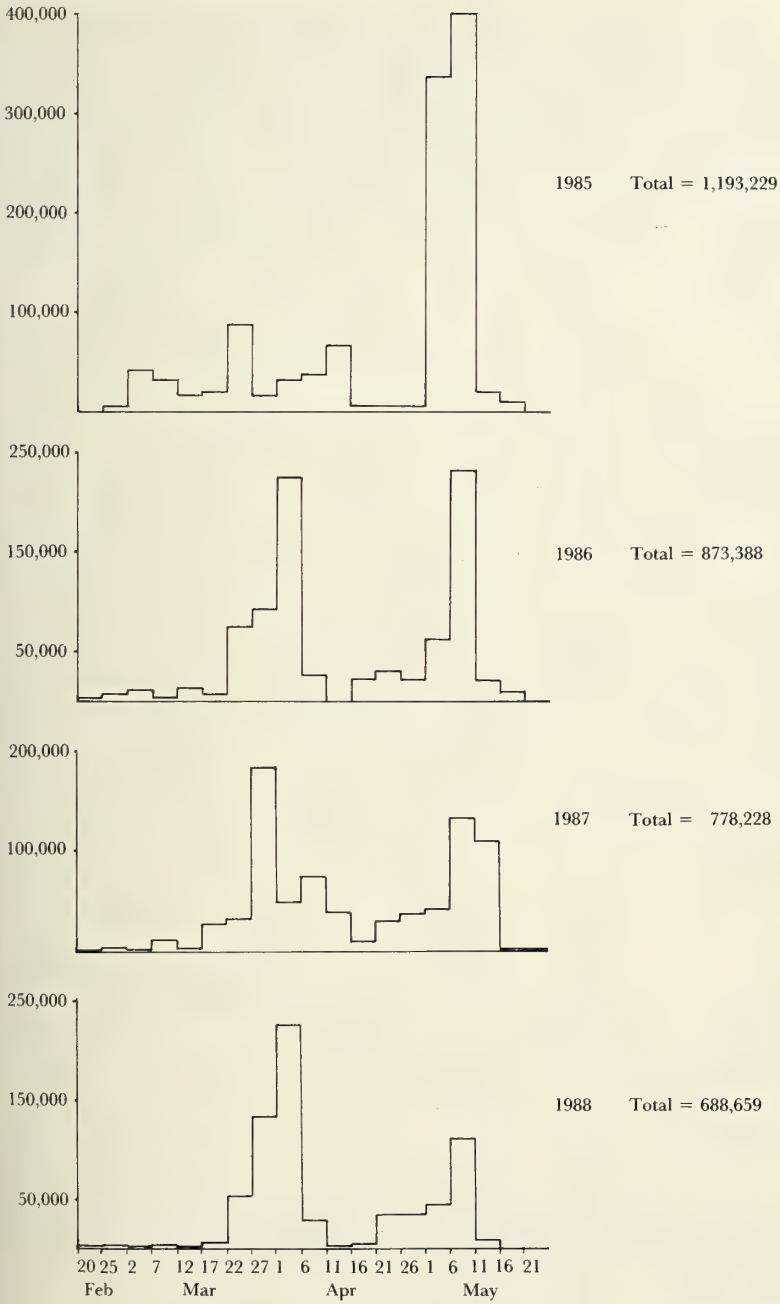


Fig. 3. Total raptors of all species counted at Eilat in springs of 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988

range observation of all raptors, thus reducing the number of unidentified individuals. Double counts were eliminated by the use of radio links between posts and by comparing recording sheets at the end of the day.

Table 1. Counts of migrating raptors at Eilat in nine different migration seasons (six springs, three autumns) during which coverage complete or significant

Observation periods (and number of days on which counts made) were as follows:
Springs (= S): 1977, 2nd Feb-17th May (total of 83 days); 1983, 15th Feb-31st May (107 days); 1985, 16th Feb-23rd May (100 days); 1986, 15th Feb-20th May (97 days); 1987, 15th Feb-25th May (99 days); 1988, 15th Feb-15th May (87 days). Autumns (= A): 1980, 25th Aug-30th Nov (88 days); 1986, 15th Oct-14th Nov (26 days); 1987, 16th Oct-15th Nov (25 days)

Data from Christensen *et al.* (1981), Shirihai (1987, 1988) and Shirihai & Yekutiel (1991)

Species	Season	1977	1980	1983	1985	1986	1987	1988
Honey Buzzard	S	225,952		277,426	851,598	341,777	293,658	188,914
Pernis apivorus	A		114					
Black-shouldered Kite	S	1			1	(also see text)		
Elanus caeruleus	A							
Black Kite	S	26,770		26,541	28,320	24,728	31,363	31,77
Milvus migrans	A		236			4	96	
Red Kite	S							
Milvus milvus	A					1		
White-tailed Eagle	S				(see text)			
Haliaeetus albicilla	A							
Egyptian Vulture	S	802		270	541	385	308	26
Neophron percnopterus	A		45			2	25	
Griffon Vulture	S	22		3	17	14	2	
Gyps fulvus	A		45			24	21	
Black Vulture	S							
Aegypius monachus	A		3					
Short-toed Eagle	S	220		132	345	151	59	6
Circaetus gallicus	A		141			61	243	
Bateleur	S							
Terathopius ecaudatus	A							
Marsh Harrier	S	125		371	242	93	171	
Circus aeruginosus	A		63			37	75	
Hen Harrier	S	1					1	
Circus cyaneus	A		2					
Pallid Harrier	S	7		104	113	17	88	
Circus macrourus	A		10				12	
Montagu's Harrier	S	7		55	17	8	14	
Circus pygargus	A		14					
Pallid/Montagu's Harrier	S	26		44	41	13	29	
	A		13					
Goshawk	S	1		3	3		1	
Accipiter gentilis	A		6					
Sparrowhawk	S	155		456	138	76	102	
Accipiter nisus	A		177				39	
Shikra	S						1	
Accipiter badius	A							
Levant Sparrowhawk	S	5,958		2,573	905	17,034	49,836	21,3
Accipiter brevipes	A		202				36	
Accipiter sp.	S	1,360			143	42	143	2
	A							
Buzzard	S							
Buteo buteo buteo	A	9						
Steppe Buzzard	S	315,767		142,793	225,460	465,827	380,441	429,9
Buteo b. vulpinus	A		167			8	343	
Long-legged Buzzard	S	28		33	105	47	29	8
Buteo rufinus	A		32					
Buteo sp.	S						18	
	A							
Buteo/Pernis/Milvus sp.	S	149,258			6,460		3,757	5,5
	A							

pecies	Season	1977	1980	1983	1985	1986	1987	1988
esser Spotted Eagle	S	65		40	74	58	67	21
Aquila pomarina	A		2			1	17	
potted Eagle	S	8		10	5	6	4	5
Aquila clanga	A		13					
teppe Eagle	S	19,288		22,726	75,053	22,762	17,443	10,922
Aquila nipalensis	A		24,243			12,199	11,629	
nperial Eagle	S	95		30	61	35	47	12
Aquila heliaca	A		64			8	12	
olden Eagle	S						7	
Aquila chrysaetos	A							
quila sp.	S	9,083			1,111	17	31	
ooted Eagle	S	175		146	140	109	105	150
Hieraaetus pennatus	A		19					
onelli's Eagle	S	1			6	1	5	2
Hieraaetus fasciatus	A							
sprey	S	130		87	49	64	96	73
Pandion haliaetus	A		7					
esser Kestrel	S	27		55	13		34	1
Falco naumanni	A		20					
estrel	S	11		190	37	22	55	26
Falco tinnunculus	A		298					
d-footed Falcon	S	1					12	1
Falco vespertinus	A		18					
erlin	S						1	1
Falco columbarius	A		6					
obby	S	6		35	20	54	7	13
Falco subbuteo	A		21					
eonora's Falcon	S	6			16	21	9	8
Falco eleonorae	A		4			12		
oty Falcon	S						2	1
Falco concolor	A							
nner	S	3		1	7		3	1
Falco biarmicus	A							
ker	S							2
Falco cherrug	A		1					
regrine	S				4		4	
Falco peregrinus	A		3					
rbary Falcon	S	1					3	
Falco pelegrinoides	A							
co sp.	S				46	27	68	24
identified raptors	S	8,601			2,138		204	
TALS, ALL RAPTORS	S	763,961	—	474,124	1,193,229	873,388	778,228	688,659
	A	—	25,998	—	—	12,357	12,548	—

Total results

The results for all nine seasons are shown in table 1. Fig. 3 (see page 145) shows the totals by five-day periods for all species combined for the springs of 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Dynamics of migrating raptors over Eilat

The extensive information collected to date on migrating raptors at Eilat throws light on their daily behaviour patterns in the area (see also Christensen *et al.* 1981; Shirihai 1982, 1987). With each survey, however,

new questions arise and new phenomena are discovered that establish a correlation between the raptors' behaviour and the weather.

Since massive migration of raptors occurs at Eilat mainly during February-May, it is primarily the spring season that is referred to in the following paragraphs.

Geographical features

Bordering Eilat to the east and north is a narrow rift (part of the Syro-African Rift Valley) lying roughly in a north-south direction; to the east are the Edom Mountains (reaching 1,800 m above sea level), to the west is the Eilat massif (up to 800 m), to the south is the Bay of Eilat (Gulf of Aqaba), while to the north the Arava Valley continues for a further 200 km to the Dead Sea. Both sides of the valley are mountainous, with numerous large wadis or dry ravines. The Moon Valley and the Negev are situated to the west of the Eilat massif and are of a similar height above sea level; this area is composed mainly of sand and bare rock, with very sparse vegetation.

Until recently, it was thought that the Syro-African Rift provided a particularly convenient flyway which the raptors exploited. Today, after many observations, it is clear that they cross the valley in certain areas: coming from Sinai as a part of the bypassing of the Red Sea, they usually (but variably, depending on wind and daily pattern of shift: see below) cross at the northern end of the Bay of Eilat, or somewhat farther north. This Rift-Valley crossing is problematic for raptors, as conditions are not so favourable as in the mountains: many difficulties include strong, unstable head winds, and unstable thermal conditions, causing some raptors to lose height. It appears that the geographical factor is significant, and raptors temporarily migrate a very short distance along the Rift Valley when they have difficulty in crossing it.

Climate

The Eilat region is dry and desert-like, with an average annual rainfall of 25 mm. During spring it is usually hot, with clear skies and bright sunshine. Observation conditions are generally comfortable and visibility excellent; on some days, heat haze blurs the horizon, but only in extreme cases do sandstorms hamper observation.

EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE

In Eilat, maximum shade temperatures during February-March are 20-30°C, rising occasionally above 40°C in April-June. In April and May, thermal conditions develop by early morning, so very soon after sunrise there is much movement of small and medium-sized raptors. During February and March, however, the mornings are chillier and the medium-sized and large raptors start their migration later, using active (flapping) flight and proceeding northwards along the mountains west of the Arava until favourable thermal conditions develop and enable them to cross the valley in passive flight.

EFFECT OF CLOUD AND RAIN

Cloud cover in spring is usually non-existent (0 oktas) to partial (2 oktas), and thus hardly affects the behaviour of migrating raptors, but rain, though also scant in the area, does have a significant effect, forcing large numbers of raptors to land in the mountains for several hours. Those which do not stop are blown off course to the west of Eilat.

Rain also causes termites to take to the air. This immediately attracts large flocks of raptors, especially Black Kites, which hunt the termites in the fields of Kibbutz Eilot.

EFFECT OF WIND

The winds in the Eilat region are usually northerly or northeasterly, but they change dramatically within short time periods. It is common for wind currents to blow simultaneously in different directions at different altitudes, which makes interpretation of the dynamics of high-flying migrants difficult. Wind direction and force do not significantly affect the general migration, but do change its path. The prevailing wind, blowing mainly in the Rift Valley, is north-northeasterly (owing mainly to a combination of local land-breeze augmented by Mediterranean sea-breeze), which facilitates regular migrations. Thus, the raptors pass over the Eilat massif in a northeasterly direction and cross the Arava in the Bay area north and south of Eilat. In southerly or easterly winds (caused mainly by well-developed North African low-pressure systems over Egypt and Israel area: see fig. 4), but also often on windless days, the passage route drifts up to tens of kilometres westwards into the Negev, while in moderate westerlies the route tends to pass close to the shore and the mountains (or more or less as in northerly winds); in very strong westerlies, however, raptors cross the Gulf of Aqaba, somewhat more to the south than normal, but often also move into the Negev to obtain head winds.

Of all the climatic factors, the northerly or northeasterly (head) wind appears to be the most convenient for migrating raptors, also pushing/concentrating them into the Eilat region, more or less near the Gulf. Conversely, all other winds, but chiefly southerly, easterly and westerly

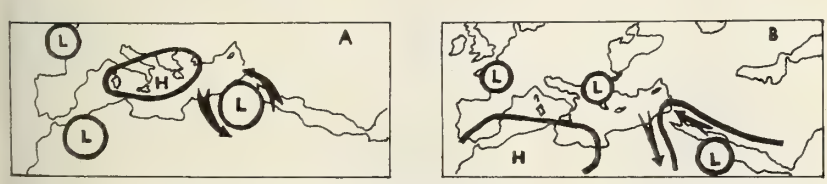


Fig. 4. Typical pattern of pressure systems in spring: A = the 'North African low' (the principal system), B = the 'Sudanian low' (scarcer) (from *Atlas of Israel*, 1970; Jaffe 1988). When these approach Egypt and Israel, the former from the west and the latter from the south, chiefly after the end of March, they cause southerly and easterly hot, dry, desertic winds (often accompanied by dust and even sandstorms) which considerably affect the passage path of raptors (largely Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* and Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*): passage streams are drifted and blown tens of kilometres off course well west of Eilat region, over the Negev

(tail) winds, have an adverse effect on the passage and direction of migrants; when northerly winds return after a few hours or days, there is a gradual re-determined stream back towards the normal passage zone (i.e. Eilat area). This is also confirmed in autumn observations.

Pattern of daily migration in spring

During the morning, migration begins in the mountains west of Eilat, as well as in the lower areas around Eilat itself. The hour at which it starts varies during the season for different species. As the region heats up and thermal conditions develop, the migration becomes stronger, higher and

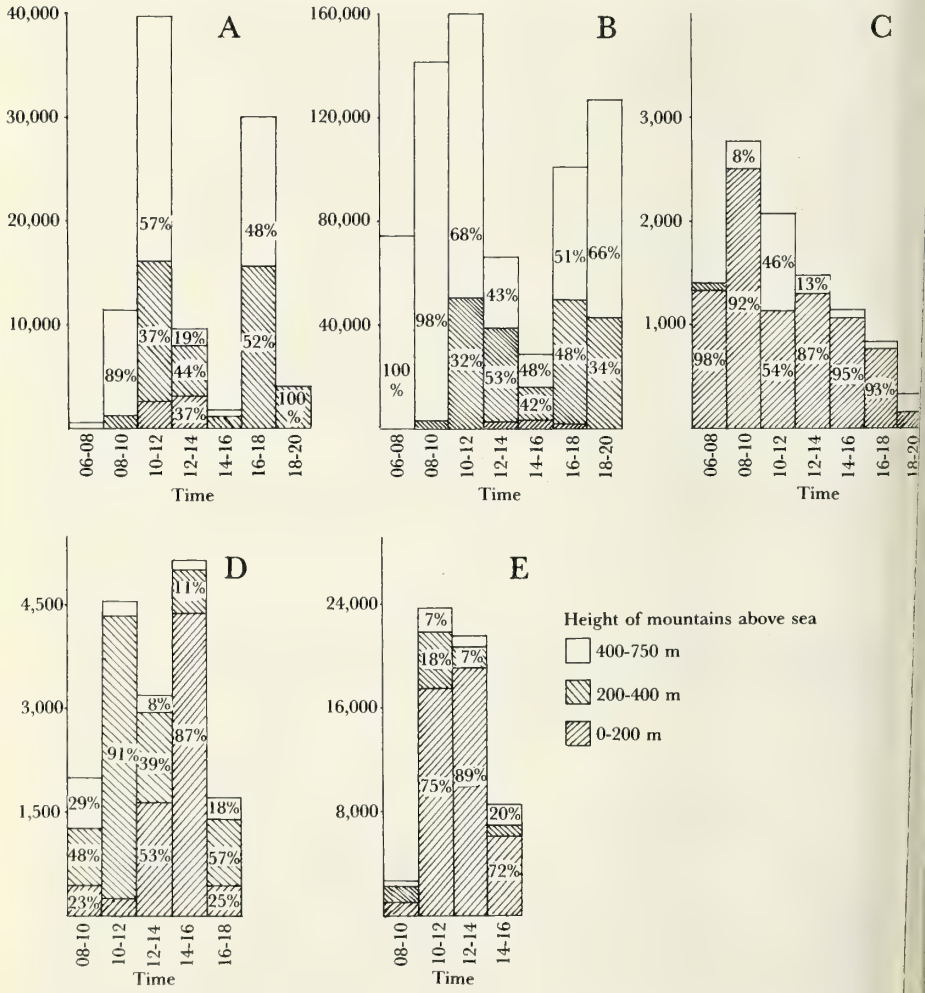


Fig. 5. Peak five days of passage of each of the five commonest raptors in spring at Eilat, recorded by time of day and location; figures in columns show percentages of total in each two-hour period passing over each mountain sector (see fig. 2). A = Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus* (1985), B = Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (1985), C = Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (1986), D = Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (1985), E = Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

denser in the sky, and it drifts eastwards at varying speeds (figs. 5 & 6). In the early morning, the raptors cross the Arava up to some tens of kilometres north of Eilat, and, as crossing conditions improve, they cross nearer to the town. During the hot midday hours when thermal conditions are best, the raptors rise to 1,500 m and more above ground level and fly at such speeds that they are hard to spot with the naked eye. It should be noted that during 12.00-16.00 hours the passage is blown off course south of Eilat, and the crossing of the Rift Valley then takes place high above the Bay of Eilat or well west of Eilat, over the Negev. Later in the afternoon, the raptors lose height and return to migrate above the Eilat mountains, where many of them also roost.

This pattern is very general, but varies among the species in different areas in varying climatic conditions (see under species accounts).

There are also indications of nocturnal migration, especially on cloudy nights. Some small and medium-sized raptors have been observed migrating until total darkness, showing no signs of roosting, while there are many sightings of buzzards and kites actively migrating at high altitudes very soon after first light.

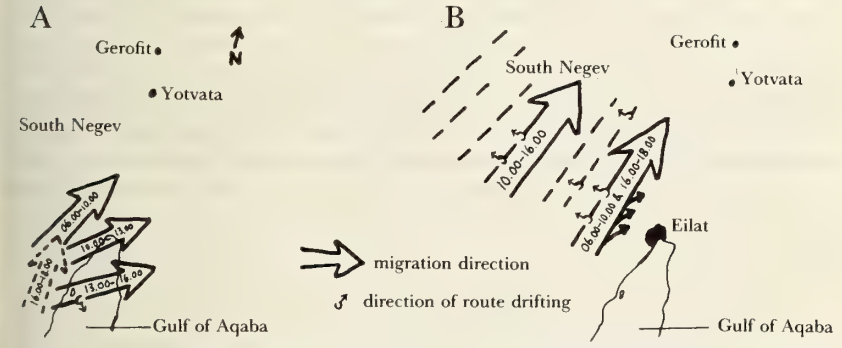


Fig. 6. Two general migration patterns over Eilat area in spring in different wind conditions. A = NE or N winds; B = S or E winds, or no wind

The extent of the migration front in spring

The 'Eilat migration route' is spread over a front of up to 100 km or more. When conditions are suitable, the raptors cross the Rift Valley near the northern end of the Bay of Eilat. When crossing conditions there are not good, or when the passage is deflected by southerly or easterly winds, the route is likely to pass above the central Negev and across the Rift Valley close to the Dead Sea. For example, on 9th May 1985, with a southeasterly wind in the early morning, a small migration of Honey Buzzards was observed above Eilat; later in the morning, the route was pulled westwards to the Negev and no further movement of Honey Buzzards was visible that day above the Eilat area, but 7,600 were seen at Beer Sheva in the central Negev.

Observations made from a vehicle that followed the passage as it drifted over the Negev showed that the dynamics of the migration front seemed to vary. The stream of birds constantly flew northeast, but, because of

changes in wind direction and/or thermal conditions, the stream was deflected east or west of the main passage zone followed during northerly winds.

Autumn migration

The autumn migration in general is much smaller than that in spring. Of the five abundant species in spring (see table 2), only the Steppe Eagle migrates in numbers approaching those in spring.

Observations show a clear pattern in the Steppe Eagles' daily migration in autumn in the Eilat area. Until 09.00 hours, they cross from east to west over the Arava Valley, singly or dispersed, 20-60 km north of Eilat, then continue in a west-southwesterly direction above the Moon Valley; as the northerly wind strengthens, the passage is shifted southwards and crosses above the fields of Kibbutz Eilot and the North Beach of Eilat. The peak hours of migration are 11.00-12.00.

An interesting occurrence is observed in autumn: as the eagles come from over the Edom Mountains (Jordan), they are met by a strong northerly wind blowing in the Arava Valley; they turn northwest into the wind, which helps them quickly across the valley. This movement against the general direction of migration continues for 10 km north of Eilat. After they have crossed the Arava, the Steppe Eagles resume a westerly or southwesterly course, which is the regular migration direction in autumn.

On most days, passage above the North Beach almost completely ceases by 13.00 hours; only on a few peak days are Steppe Eagles sighted continuously from the earlier morning hours until 15.00 hours. After midday, passage is normally drifted southwards, and the eagles cross east to west above the Bay; later in the afternoon, they return to the Jordan Mountains (fig. 7).

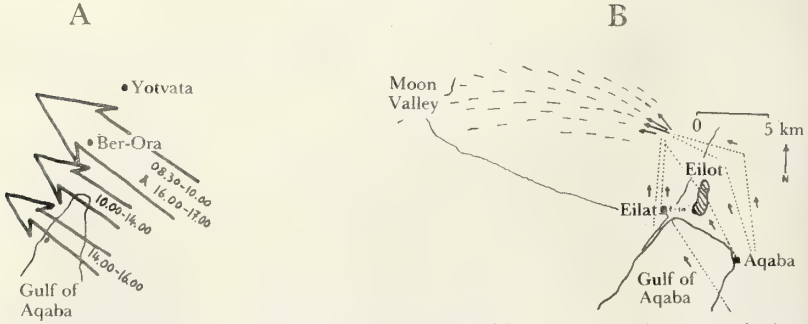


Fig. 7. Migration of Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* over Eilat in autumn. A = general migration direction; B = general temporal pattern of crossing Arava Valley

List of raptors migrating through Eilat

Table 2 shows the status of each raptor species that migrates through Eilat in spring. Only the Steppe Eagle occurs in significant numbers in autumn.

Table 2. Status according to level of abundance of raptors migrating through Eilat, Israel, in spring
See table 1 for scientific names of species

ABUNDANT SPECIES		COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE
Level 1 hundreds of thousands	Level 2 tens of thousands	SPECIES hundreds	SPECIES tens	SPECIES singles
Honey Buzzard	Black Kite	Egyptian Vulture	Pallid Harrier	Goshawk
Steppe Buzzard	Levant Sparrowhawk	Short-toed Eagle	Montagu's Harrier	Spotted Eagle
	Steppe Eagle	Marsh Harrier	Long-legged Buzzard	Bonelli's Eagle
		Sparrowhawk	Lesser Spotted Eagle	and all remaining species
			Imperial Eagle	
			Booted Eagle	
			Osprey	
			Kestrel	
			Hobby	

ABUNDANT SPECIES

This group includes five species which together comprise more than 90% of all raptors passing through Eilat. In spring 1985 they accounted for 96% of the total. Fig. 8 shows the temporal pattern in the peak year for each one.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

This eagle accounted for 6.4% of the total raptor migration in the record spring of 1985, and constitutes 99.9% of all *Aquila* eagles passing through Eilat.

Spring The first migrants appear in January, but a more massive migration starts from the third week in February and continues until the third week in March, with the last observed up to the middle of May. Two main migration waves: the first, when most fly over, takes place from the end of February to mid March; the second, smaller, wave is scattered over the remainder of the period, peaking during the second week of April. Peak day was 6th March 1985, when 14,164 were counted (table 3). The largest number in one season was 75,053, in spring 1985 (fig. 8), and the multi-year variation was 84% (table 4).

Autumn The first migrants appear in the third week of September, with the peak period usually between the third week of October and the first week of November; the last are seen in the second week of December. In 1980, the peak period was 22nd-28th October, when 16,100 were counted; the peak day was 23rd October, when 7,295 eagles passed (fig. 9).

Ages In the springs of 1977, 1985 and 1986 and in autumn 1980, special emphasis was placed on this aspect.

In February and the first week of March virtually all Steppe Eagles recorded are adults; up to the third week of March, adults and sub-adults (5th calendar-year or older) predominate. From the end of March and throughout April, many immatures (3rd-5th calendar-years) pass, while by mid April the majority are juveniles (= first-summer, 2nd calendar-year) (fig. 10).

In autumn, mainly juveniles (= first-winter and second-winter, 1st-2nd calendar-year) pass up to the third week of October. Within the peak period the majority are adults, sub-adults and immatures (3rd-7th calendar-years); on the peak day of 23rd October 1980, almost equal numbers of adults/sub-adults (5th-7th calendar-years) and immatures/juveniles (1st-4th calendar-years) passed, while in November nearly all were adults (fig. 10)

Table 3. Peak days of migration of raptors at Eilat, Israel, in spring in seven different years
Data from Christensen *et al.* (1981), Shirihai (1987, 1988) and Shirihai & Yekutiel (1991)

		1977	1980	1983	1985	1986	1987	1988
Honey Buzzard	Date	16 May	—	6 May	7 May	6 May	9 May	8 May
Pernis apivorus	no.	36,738	—	223,100	227,799	106,394	70,987	64,498
Black Kite	Date	26 Mar	29 Mar	31 Mar	22 Mar	31 Mar	29 Mar	1 Apr
Milvus migrans	no.	2,489	20,450	6,000	9,316	5,810	9,956	5,943
Egyptian Vulture	Date	30 Mar	17 Mar	3 Apr	15 Apr	28 Mar	28 Mar	2 Apr
Neophron percnopterus	no.	42	29	34	30	28	31	27
Short-toed Eagle	Date	21 Mar	—	12 Mar	11 Mar	15 Mar	9 Mar	14 Mar
Circaetus gallicus	no.	20	—	13	29	20	7	4
Marsh Harrier	Date	20 Apr	—	3 Apr	3 May	19 Apr	28 Mar	15 Apr
Circus aeruginosus	no.	9	—	17	22	16	22	15
Pallid Harrier	Date	—	—	3 Apr	1 Apr	20 Apr	29 Mar	10 & 25 Mar
Circus macrourus	no.	—	—	38	11	4	29	2
Montagu's Harrier	Date	—	—	7 Apr	3 dates	8 Apr	14 dates	11 Apr
Circus pygargus	no.	—	—	8	2	2	1	4
Sparrowhawk	Date	17 Apr	—	6 May	16 Apr	24 Apr	11 Apr & 9 May	7 & 11 Apr
Accipiter nisus	no.	31	—	30	26	14	9	5
Levant Sparrowhawk	Date	20 Apr	19 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr
Accipiter brevipes	no.	2,556	2,000	650	600	6,377	22,747	12,609
Steppe Buzzard	Date	9 Apr	29 Mar	31 Mar	22 Mar	2 Apr	29 Mar	2 Apr
Buteo b. vulpinus	no.	51,562	108,050	31,000	37,805	130,000	65,021	72,991
Long-legged Buzzard	Date	—	—	7 Apr	23 Mar	28 Mar	22 Mar	1 Apr
Buteo rufinus	no.	—	—	4	12	8	3	8
Lesser Spotted Eagle	Date	—	—	—	4 May	2 Apr	26 Mar	5 Apr
Aquila pomarina	no.	—	—	—	7	12	9	5
Steppe Eagle	Date	21 Feb	28 Feb	14 Mar	6 Mar	4 Mar	7 Mar	5 Apr
Aquila nipalensis	no.	2,829	3,804	7,000	14,164	2,977	3,034	1,239
Imperial Eagle	Date	25 Feb	—	3 Mar	4 Apr	25 Mar & 6 Apr	1 Apr	1 Apr
Aquila heliaca	no.	11	—	3	6	3	10	2
Booted Eagle	Date	20 Apr	—	—	16 Apr	4 Apr	29 Mar	5 Apr
Hieraaetus pennatus	no.	17	—	—	11	13	9	30
Osprey	Date	8 Apr	—	—	22 Mar	25 Mar	4 Apr	5 Apr
Pandion haliaetus	no.	23	—	—	6	8	12	30

At the beginning and end of the passages the populations flying over are of more or less similar age groups. Towards the middle of the migration seasons (autumn: third and fourth weeks in October; spring: third and fourth weeks in March) different age groups migrate in mixed flocks; during these periods, ageing is difficult and requires more study.

Christensen *et al.* (1981) estimated that in spring 1977 (and other years) adults constituted 60% of the total Steppe Eagle passage. From the 1985 and 1986 surveys, however, we estimated the percentage of adults passing through Eilat in spring to be about 70% of the total; the figure for autumn 1980 was estimated at 75%. The general impression is that about 60-70% of Steppe Eagles migrating through Eilat are of breeding age (5th calendar-year and older). Faced with the question of the whereabouts of the juveniles, we offer the following hypotheses:

1. Adults that winter in north and east Africa migrate en masse, passing over Eilat within a short period, whereas juveniles, wintering in more extensive areas to the south and west of the adults, migrate in a more scattered fashion. It seems that juvenile passage occurs over a broad front and along many secondary routes, making accurate estimation of population size difficult.

2. Possibly, different age groups prefer different routes. In spring, about 70% of Steppe Eagles at Eilat are adults, whereas in the central Negev, Beer Sheva and the Dead Sea area the main part of the migration involves non-adults. These Negev and Judean Desert areas are almost devoid of passage from mid February to mid March (the peak period of passage at Eilat): for example, at Beer Sheva in spring 1985,

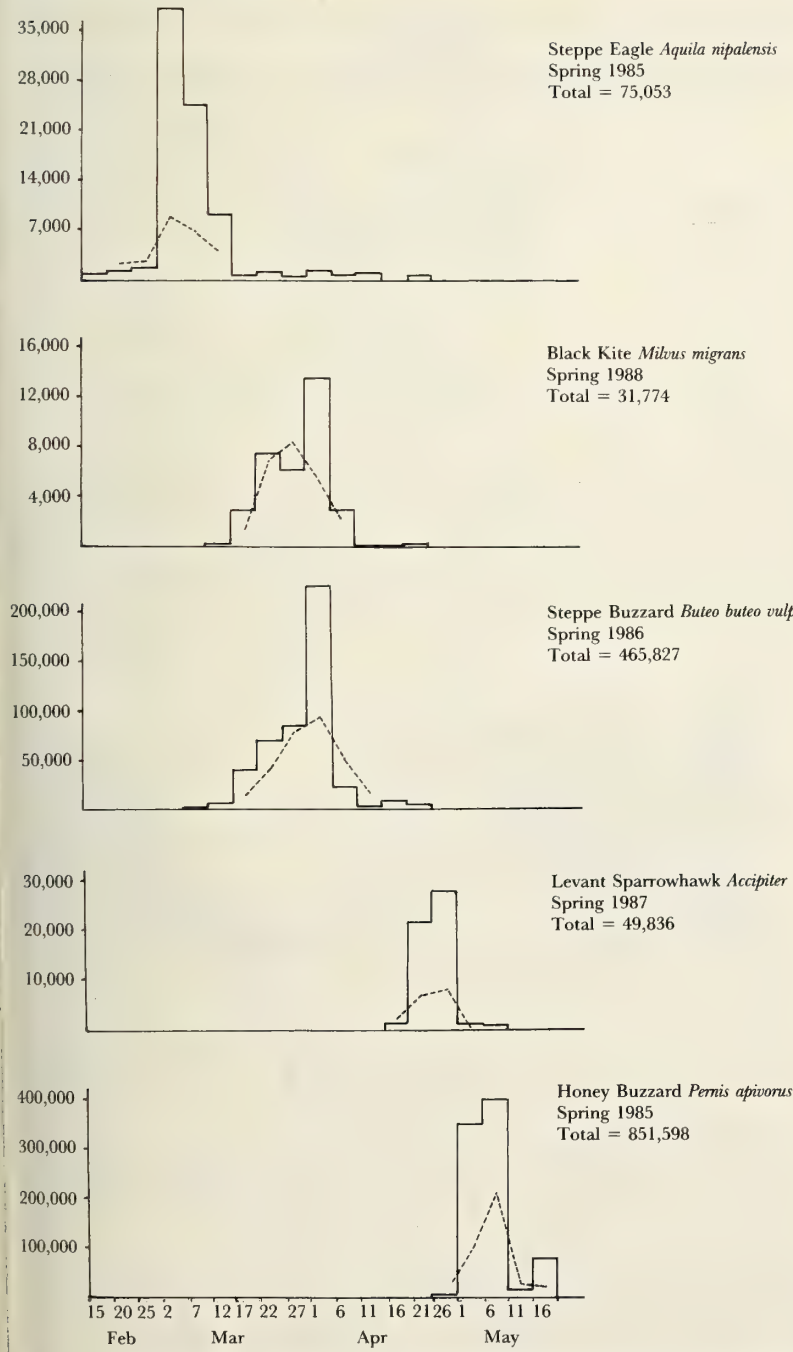


Fig. 8. Highest seasonal totals of the five most abundant raptors over Eilat in spring, by five-day periods. Broken lines show average five-day totals over the springs 1977, 1983, and 1985-88

Table 4. Multi-year variation in counts of raptor species at Eilat over six springs, 1977, 1983, 1985-88

Coefficient of variation is the standard deviation expressed as a percentage of the mean. Data from Christensen *et al.* (1981), Shirihai (1987, 1988) and Shirihai & Yekutiel (1991)

Species	ANNUAL SPRING COUNT Mean	Range	Standard deviation (n = 6)	Coefficient of variation
All species totalled	795,228	474,124-1,193,229	236,752	30%
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*	28,032	10,922-75,053	23,444	84%
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*	28,249	24,728-31,774	2,808	10%
Steppe Buzzard *Buteo b. vulpinus*	326,278	142,793-465,827	123,751	38%
Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*	16,281	905-49,836	18,349	113%
Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*	363,221	188,914-851,598	245,111	67%
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*	138	105-175	26	19%
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	83	49-130	28	34%
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*	428	263-802	210	49%
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*	163	52-456	148	91%
Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*	162	59-345	107	66%

adults represented only 9.38% of the total passage, as against about 90% non-adults, counted mainly in April (Ben Zohar 1986). Similarly, at northern Suez in spring 1982, 15,778 migrants were counted during February-May, with more than 70% passing during the peak period for non-adults (from mid March, mainly during the second half of April) (Wimpfheimer *et al.* 1983; Bruun 1985). It appears that the majority of adults, plus some non-adults which arrive from eastern Egypt, tend to cross the southern Gulf of Suez and central and eastern Sinai and continue over the Eilat area, thus bypassing the Gulf of Aqaba; by contrast, others, mostly non-adults, continue north along the western bank of the Gulf of Suez, bypass the latter and proceed over northern Sinai to the central Negev and Dead Sea area. Differences in need to reach the breeding grounds may explain the disparity in ages along the different routes: although Steppe Eagles prefer an overland route, the adults' urgency to start breeding (in Asia) makes them less hesitant to cross the broader southern end of the Gulf of Suez, whereas juveniles and immatures can take a longer, but safer and easier, overland route. Further comparative studies would be instructive.

3. As with Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* and Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, part of the juvenile population of Steppe Eagles may remain in Africa in summer (Christensen *et al.* 1981; Christensen & Sørensen 1989).

Migration patterns in spring Compared with smaller species, Steppe Eagles, needing well-developed air currents, begin their passage later in the morning. In February and March, they start migrating north above the middle (200-400 m) mountains west of Eilat between 08.00 and 10.00 (usually after 09.00). At around 10.00 hours, as the eagles begin to reach altitudes for more favourable thermals, the passage becomes denser and drifts eastwards, hugging the Bay; the crossing from west to east takes place over the town of Eilat and a little to the north of it. From 10.30 to 12.30 hours the cross passage becomes denser and

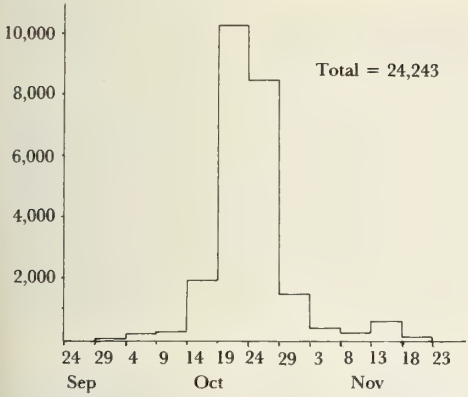


Fig. 9. Migration of Steppe Eagles *Aquila nipalensis* over Eilat in autumn 1980 by five-day periods

the migration direction more easterly. Around 13.00 hours the eagles have gained great height and the passage is drifted southwards; the eastward crossing occurs above the Bay itself, south of Eilat. Towards 16.00 hours, when thermal conditions deteriorate, the eagles stop crossing the sea and return to migrate above the Eilat mountains. At night, they can be found roosting on inland cliffs west of Eilat and in the Moon Valley. On some March days, mainly in unusual cloudy and rainy weather with southerly or easterly winds, passage is drifted westwards to the Moon Valley region or to the southern Negev (less often to the central Negev) and is not then visible above the Eilat region (fig. 6; see also Shirihai & Yekutiel 1991).

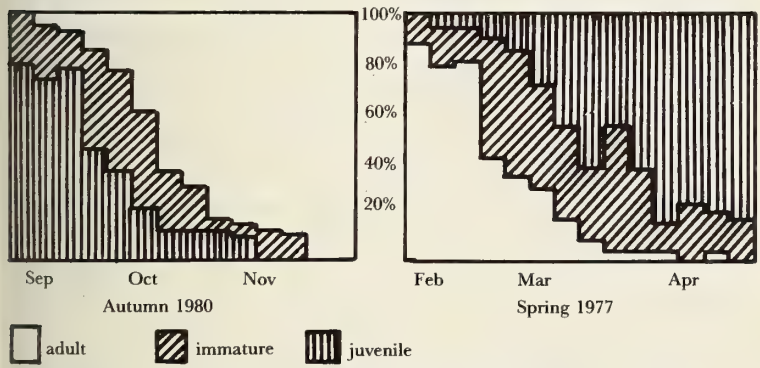


Fig. 10. Age composition of migrating Steppe Eagles *Aquila nipalensis* at Eilat in autumn 1980 and spring 1977

In Eilat, an interesting occurrence has been observed during the morning migration (up to 13.00 hours). Steppe Eagles trying to cross the Bay of Eilat from west to east in the region of Coral Island were forced to return to the western shore, where they were seen arriving from the sea at Taba, north of their starting point. At Taba they tried to gain height to cross at narrower points, but once more had to retreat, eventually crossing overland in the Eilat region. Because of their high wing-loading, Steppe Eagles find it difficult to cross bodies of water even as narrow as the Gulf of Aqaba, particularly when they lose altitude owing to unfavourable thermal conditions combined with northeasterly winds. They do not retreat in their paths above land, however, further emphasising how difficult a sea crossing the Bay of Eilat is for them.

Migration patterns in autumn See page 152 and fig. 7.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

The Black Kite formed approximately 3.5% of the total spring raptor migration in 1977, 2% in 1985, 4% in 1987 and as much as 4.6% in 1988.

Spring The first Black Kites appear in the last week of February, followed by mass regular migration from the second week of March to the last week of April, when they disappear almost completely (though the last are seen as late as early June). The peak period is the third week in March until the first week in April. The peak days are usually between 22nd March and 1st April (table 3). In some years, the migration is in two waves: the main one during the last two weeks of March, and the second one during the second week of April. The highest daily count was of 9,956, on 29th March 1987, and seasonal totals ranged between 24,728 (1986) and 31,774 (1988), with a 10% multi-year variation (Shirihai 1987, 1988; Shirihai & Yekutiel 1991; tables 1 & 4). In spring 1980, an exceptional 36,690 were counted between 26th February and 5th April, with a peak of 20,450 on 29th March (Christensen *et al.* 1981).

Autumn This species is irregular in small numbers in autumn.

Ages Up to the end of March most are 'adult-looking' individuals, while in April these are mixed with younger birds; from late April/early May typical second-calendar-years are seen, but not in great numbers.

Migration patterns in spring Together with the Honey Buzzard, this medium-sized raptor is the first to leave the roost, around sunrise, and the last to go to roost at night. Most roost in the mountains west of Eilat, with others in trees (mainly in cultivated patches) in the southern Arava Valley. Between 06.00 and 08.00 hours, the latter advance from the fields in active flight above the Arava in a northerly or north-northeasterly direction. Later in the morning, those roosting in the mountains also actively fly north-northeast. As thermals develop, from about 07.30, Black Kites cross the Arava 20-30 km north of Eilat. Until about 10.00 hours, the passage is deflected southwards, and many cross the Arava at medium altitudes in the vicinity of Eilat and Kibbutz Eilot. Around midday, when the kites are at high altitudes and thermal conditions are good, they are drifted southwards and cross the Bay of Eilat above the sea. This is why, on many days, Black Kites were not visible in the afternoons; only towards 15.00 hours did the migration return northwards to the Eilat region, and the birds were then seen crossing eastwards slightly north of Eilat until roosting time (most come to roost during the last hours of light and sometimes even after dark).

In the region of Eilat massif, Black Kites characteristically migrate at low altitudes and close to the Bay, especially over mountains not exceeding 400 m. In 1985 and 1986, on a number of occasions, a stream of Black Kites passed low between the two observation stations without being counted; on other occasions they passed to the west of the line of observation stations, then flew northeast, bypassing the Eilat mountains and the Moon Valley, so that no station could sight them (see figs. 2 & 5).

Although both 'Steppe' Buzzards *Buteo buteo vulpinus* and Black Kites migrate at the same periods during most hours of the day, their routes are clearly separate; only in the afternoon does a partial mingling of the two species occur.

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Steppe Buzzards formed 41.3% of the total spring raptor migration in 1977, 18.8% in 1985, 53.2% in 1986, 48.8% in 1987 and 62.3% in 1988.

Spring The first migrants appear in mid February, followed by regular passage from the start of the second week in March until the end of April (during 17th March-20th April, over 10,000 may be seen on any day); the last pass as late as the first week of June, with juveniles and sick or weak individuals even after the end of June. Two main migration waves are recognisable: the first, when most are recorded, is at the end of March and early April; the second is in the third week of April. The record season was spring 1986, when 465,827 were counted (fig. 8), and the multi-year variation was 38% (table 4).

Autumn This species migrates in very small numbers throughout autumn.

Ages and morphs Adults predominate up to the middle of April, while the second migration wave comprises mainly juveniles (Christensen *et al.* 1981; Gorney & Clark 1984; HS, personal observations).

Two dominant morphs are observed: (a) those with a rufous appearance ('fox-red morph');

(b) those with a grey-brown appearance, but with some pale rusty colour on tail and underparts ('grey-brown morph'). In addition, there is an intermediate morph, a blackish morph and a rare whitish morph. The proportions are roughly as follows: fox-red, 60%; grey-brown, 20%; intermediate, 15% (this may be part of the grey-brown morph); blackish-brown, 2-5%; whitish, 1%. Much work remains to be done on the definition of and relations between the various morphs (see also Shirihai & Doherty1990; Shirihai & Forsman 1992).

Migration patterns in spring The Steppe Buzzard's migration starts between 06.30 and 08.00 hours (slightly later than Black Kite). Two typical patterns are evident:

1. On days with a northerly or northeasterly wind, there are two peaks, during 09.00-11.00 and during 16.00-18.00 hours. During 11.00-16.00, passage virtually ceases over the area. This is due to a change in direction and location of the passage: the migration direction is easterly, and the crossing of the valley occurs south of Eilat above the Bay.

2. The second pattern is observed in southerly or easterly winds, or on windless days, when the route is pulled west towards the Negev for a day or two. When the wind reverts to northeasterly, the passage returns to the Eilat region. This is why only a few Steppe Buzzards were seen over the Eilat area during the peak period in 1985: on 18th April only five were seen throughout the Eilat region, when 50,000 crossed within a period of a few hours about 250 km to the north and many were observed in the Negev. (In the 1986 survey, in prevailing northeasterlies, more passed over Eilat than over the Negev during the peak days.)

Steppe Buzzards go to roost from about 17.30 hours until after sunset. In the massif region west of Eilat, Steppe Buzzards, unlike Black Kites and Steppe Eagles, usually migrate above the 400-700-m mountains (see figs. 2 & 5).

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

This species formed 6.4% of the total raptor migration in the peak spring of 1987.

Spring The first appear during the last week of March (earliest recorded was on 25th March 1986), and regular migration of tens or more daily occurs only from mid April, with the peak period (thousands per day) usually during 16th-28th April; passage of hundreds per day continues until early May, with the last ones towards the middle of May. The migration is characterised by its great density and short time span during which more than 90% of the total passes. The largest number counted in one season was 49,836, in spring 1987 (fig. 8), and the multi-year variation was 113% (table 4). The highest daily count was of 22,747, on 25th April 1987.

Autumn This species usually migrates in small flocks of tens of individuals during the second half of September, though, in some autumns, larger flocks are recorded (e.g. a flock of 1,500 on 25th September 1986). In autumn 1980, two flocks roosted in the fields of Kibbutz Eilot: 63 on 17th September, and 100 on 25th September.

Ages In spring, males were the first to migrate in large numbers, followed a few days later by females and immatures. (It is worth noting that a large population of second-calendar-year individuals passes Eilat.)

In autumn, adults and juveniles pass in mixed flocks, but on days when large numbers are recorded the percentage of juveniles is relatively high.

Migration patterns in spring This small raptor migrates in flocks of hundreds and thousands, 90% of the total passing the Eilat area within a small number of consecutive days. This mass appearance results in great annual fluctuations, for several reasons: (a) the species is relatively small and hard to detect as it flies past at high altitudes during most hours of the day; (b) on peak days, when southerly winds blow or during other weather changes, the route is pushed westwards to the Negev, and most birds are consequently missed by counters at the regular sites.

Levant Sparrowhawks rise at or before sunrise from roosting sites, hunting singly or in small flocks. By 07.30-08.30 hours, most gain height and, within a short time, disappear in a more or less northerly direction (the predominant passage heading); in contrast to all other species, Levant Sparrowhawks have not been seen to cross the Arava Valley or the Gulf of Aqaba. This may be attributed to this species' relatively western breeding

distribution (with most birds heading for the Black Sea area), whereas other species breed chiefly farther east and consequently show a more eastward migration, crossing the Rift Valley to Jordan. Migration is observed above the Eilat mountains up to 11.00 hours, after which the route is noticeably pushed westwards above the eastern Negev; only in the late afternoon, close to sunset, does passage return eastwards, and is then seen in the mountains above the roosting areas and in the Arava Valley.

On many days, it was difficult to determine whether the route was invisible to watchers because it was blown westwards, or because of the high altitude of flight and the difficulty in discerning these small raptors during their rapid migration. In southerly or easterly winds, the passage drifts westwards and passes over the central Negev: for example, in spring 1985, when southerly winds occurred during the second half of April, only 905 Levant Sparrowhawks were counted at Eilat, but over 30,000 at Hazeva (just south of the Dead Sea), the latter coming from the central Negev; in the same spring, about 3,500 were counted at Beer Sheva and about 7,000 in the Judean Desert.

Independent migration by this species, without other raptors, occurs in Israel; only on some non-peak days are individuals seen with other species.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Honey Buzzards accounted for 39.2% of the total spring raptor migration in 1977, 72.6% in 1985, but only 27.4% in 1988.

Spring The first migrants usually appear in mid April, but singles can arrive even earlier (earliest were two on 2nd April 1986). Regular migration of tens and thousands per day starts from the last week of April. The peak period occurs during 1st-13th May (table 3), when about 90% of the total passage passes; the bulk of this involves adults and near-adults, with a huge amount of plumage variation (see plates 70-81). The migration normally ends between 20th and 25th May, but flocks of tens and hundreds, including also many immatures, still occur up to mid June (latest date 17th June 1985). In 1977 and 1985, there were two distinct migration waves, the first, main, one in the first week in May and the second in the third week in May, though in 1983 and 1986 there was a very dense fly-past with no clear distinction between waves. The largest number counted in one season was 851,598, in spring 1985, with the peak day on 7th May, when 227,799 passed (fig. 8). Multi-year variation was 67% (table 4).

Autumn Very small numbers of Honey Buzzards are observed throughout the autumn months.

Migration patterns in spring Honey Buzzards leave their roosts in the mountains at sunrise (05.30 hours). During 06.00-07.00 movement is seen in the vicinity of Ein Netafim and the Moon Valley and sometimes north and west of there, the direction fluctuating between north-northwest and north-northeast. Between 07.00 and 08.00 hours, the flocks become larger and denser, but their movement is still low and dispersed. Many are observed in active flight, flapping and gliding without soaring; others land at the edges of wadis and on inland cliffs. This is because the northerly morning wind, which enables the birds to advance into it and gain altitude, stops and the buzzards are forced to wait until it freshens or the air warms up. As the morning proceeds, the birds gain height, change flight direction to northeast, and cross the Arava Valley at a 50° angle 30-60 km north of Eilat. In the Eilat massif Honey Buzzards fly chiefly above the 450-700-m mountains (see figs. 2 & 5).

In the springs of 1985 and 1986, special attention was given to the dynamics of this species' passage, and it is now evident that the main part of the migration occurs to the west, over the Negev. One of the reasons is that on many days (especially in late April and May) the winds are southeasterly and strongly deflect the route (see fig. 6b). On days with prevailing northeasterlies, the Honey Buzzards tended to migrate, during most hours of the day, a little west of Eilat, in the southern Negev. When the route was drifted westwards, the return to the mountains west of Eilat took place at about 17.00 hours, and during these late-afternoon hours huge numbers were observed within a short period crossing the Arava from west to east above the fields of Kibbutz Eilot. Frequently, when the passage is drifted towards the Negev, it does not return to the Eilat mountains in the afternoon, but continues to pass over the Negev for a further day. Only on a few days does the movement drift south of Eilat to cross over the Bay, recalling the daily pattern of Steppe Eagle and Black Kite. (On many days in spring 1977, however, Honey Buzzards crossed the Gulf of Aqaba above the Coral Island area: Christensen *et al.* 1981.)

COMMON SPECIES

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Spring The first migrants appear as early as the second half of February, with regular migration from the beginning of March, and the last in the third week of May; subsequently only vagrants and local resident adults are seen. Three migration waves occur, two major and one minor: the first during the second and third weeks of March, the second from the last days of March until mid April, and the third in the first week of May. Despite this division into waves, the peak period is not fixed, but varies annually. In spring 1977, a total of 802 was counted, more than in any following year (fig. 11); migration counts at Eilat show a significant decrease in the Palearctic population of this species.

Autumn Only occasional migrants are observed in autumn.

Ages During spring 1985, 94.8% of Egyptian Vultures passing through Eilat were adults. Non-adults passed mainly during the first half of May (clearly, some juveniles do return to Europe in the spring).

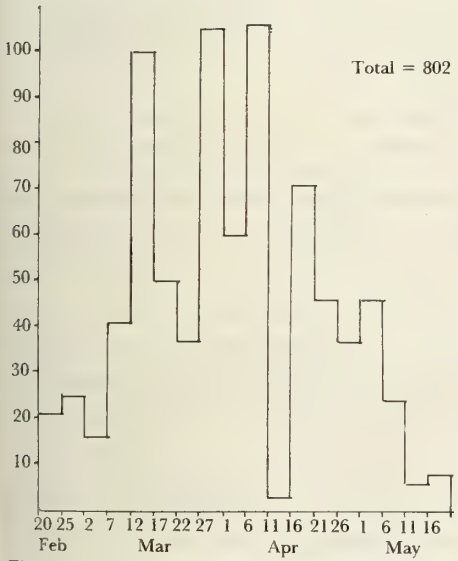


Fig. 11. Migration of Egyptian Vultures *Neophron percnopterus* over Eilat in spring 1977 by five-day periods

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Spring The first migrants appear in mid February, while migration proper is observed from the first week in March. Most pass during the second and third weeks of March, with the peak at any time between the last week in February and the end of March; the last are observed during the first week in May. The largest seasonal total to date was 345, in spring 1985, with a peak of 29 on 11th March (fig. 12).

Autumn This species migrates in small numbers in autumn, but in 1987 243 were counted, most in the second half of October.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Spring This species migrates in small numbers in a regular fashion from mid February until mid May, most passing between the second week in April and the first week in May. The largest seasonal total was 456, in spring 1983, with a peak of 30 on 6th May.

Autumn Fewer than in spring, chiefly from mid September to mid October, with a maximum of 177 in autumn 1980.

Age and sex From observations and trapping in spring and autumn, it appears that females,

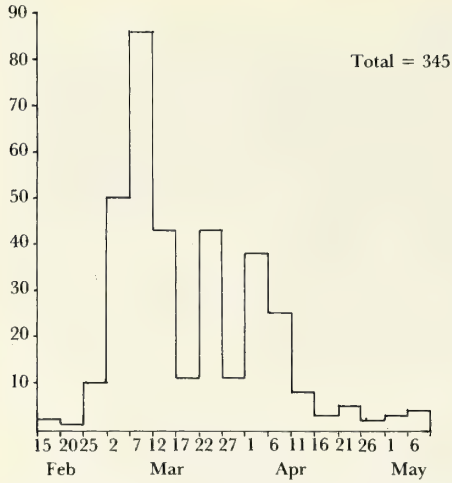


Fig. 12. Migration of Short-toed Eagles *Circaetus gallicus* over Eilat in spring 1985 by five-day periods

especially juvenile females, dominate the passage, followed by juvenile males and adult males.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Spring Regular in small numbers throughout the season, particularly from the second week in March until the second week in May. An especially large total of 371 was counted in spring 1983. The peak day was 3rd May 1985, when 22 passed.

Autumn Regular in small numbers, mainly mid October to mid November; in 1987, 75 were counted during this period. The unusually large number of 15 Marsh Harriers was recorded on 25th September 1986.

Age, sex and morphs In spring, from March until mid April, adult males and females dominate the passage (adult males formed 8% of the spring total in 1985). From mid April and particularly during the first half of May, virtually all are females and juveniles.

In spring 1984 and subsequent springs, individuals of a black morph were sighted in March and April (see Clark 1987a).

In autumn 1980, the percentage of adult males was 12.6%.

UNCOMMON SPECIES

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

Spring The first migrants appear in mid February, with regular migration from the fourth week in February until mid April; from the third week of April, passage almost completely ceases, with only latecomers observed up to mid May. The eagles migrate in two main groups, the first from the end of February to mid March and the second during the first week of April. The largest seasonal total was 95, in spring 1977, with a peak of 11 on 25th February (Christensen *et al.* 1981). A noticeable reduction in numbers was recorded in 1985 (61) and 1986 (35), despite the fact that the methods employed enabled better coverage; only 12 were counted in 1988.

Autumn Numbers are similar to those in spring. In autumn 1980, a total of 64 was counted between 6th October and 30th November, most during the second half of October, with a peak of 31 on 24th.

Ages (fig. 13) In spring, during the first wave (end February to mid March), adults predominate; sub-adults and immatures appear by the end of February, but most of them pass during the second week in March. Juveniles (second and third calendar-years) fly past

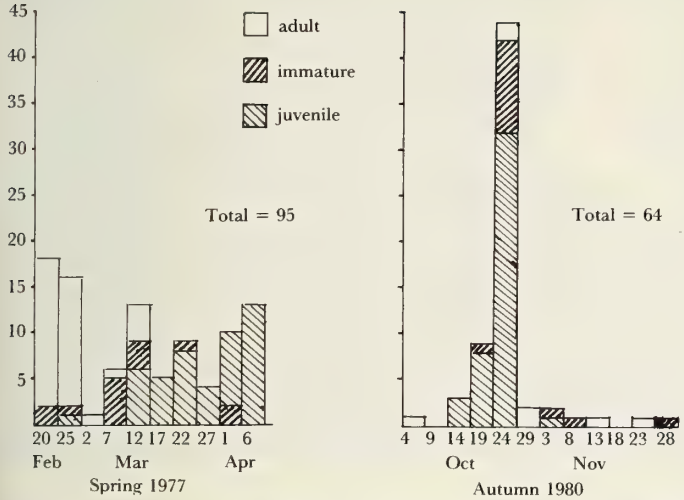


Fig. 13. Migration of Imperial Eagles *Aquila heliaca* over Eilat in spring 1977 and autumn 1980 by five-day periods, divided according to age

from mid March until mid April (more numerous during first week of April). In autumn, juveniles pass first, then immatures and sub-adults, and finally adults in dispersed fashion. The percentage of adults was 37.8% in spring 1977 and 32.7% in spring 1985, but only 7.8% in autumn 1980.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

Spring Considered scarce in Eilat, but appears in constant numbers each year, from mid March until mid May. An unusual peak occurred on 26th March 1979, when 211 were counted (the peak period for this species in the Negev is the third week of March to the first week of April; on days with westerly winds the stream is blown off course eastwards, resulting in a very small number flying past Eilat).

Autumn The Lesser Spotted Eagle is a rare migrant in autumn (e.g. only two throughout autumn 1980).

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Spring The first migrants usually appear during the fourth week in February, with regular migration from mid March until the first week in May (most during the first half of April), and the last up to the third week in May (for 1987, see fig. 14). The peak seasonal total was 175, in 1977 (table 1), and the highest daily count 17, on 20th April 1977.

Autumn Far fewer than in spring. In autumn 1980, 19 were observed during 23rd August to 16th November.

Morphs In spring, the morphs were equal in numbers in 1976, while in 1977 63% were light morph (Christensen *et al.* 1981). The light morph comprised 56% of the total in spring 1983 and 55.7% in spring 1985.

In autumn, 57% of 1,176 Booted Eagles at Kfar Kasem in 1982 were of the light morph (Dovrat 1982). From a comparison of data from Eilat with those from Kfar Kasem, it appears that the two morphs are almost equal in number. The slight preponderance of the light morph may stem from difficulties in identifying the dark morph, especially when passing with flocks of Black Kites at high altitudes. A pale-rufous variant of the dark morph is recognisably different: having rufous underbody and lesser underwing-coverts, and dark under primary, median and greater coverts forming a distinct dark band on the underwing (see Holmgren 1984; Clark 1987b).

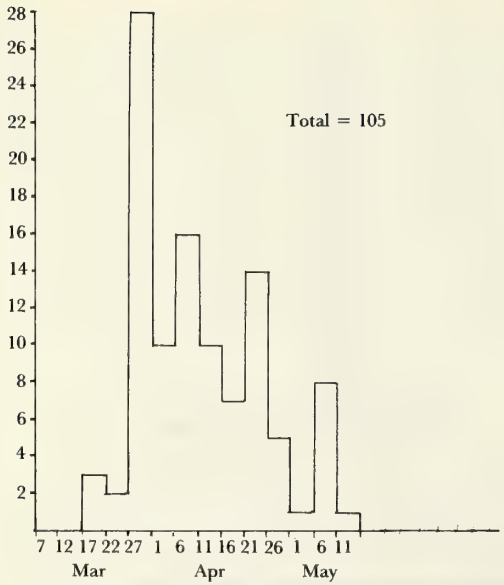


Fig. 14. Migration of Booted Eagles *Hieraaetus pennatus* over Eilat in spring 1987 by five-day periods

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Spring A rather scarce migrant, but regularly observed from mid February until mid May, particularly between the end of March and mid April. The largest seasonal total was 130, in spring 1977, with a peak of 23 on 8th April.

Autumn Rare (e.g. only seven in autumn 1980).

(Note: this species is a resident breeder in south Sinai, from where singles visit Eilat throughout the year.)

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Spring Migrates in small numbers from the end of February until mid May, especially during the second half of March (a few migrate with flocks of Steppe Buzzards, when it is hard to distinguish them: see Shirihai & Forsman 1992). Generally migrates singly and is often seen hunting and resting in the fields of Kibbutz Eilot. The largest seasonal total was 105, in spring 1985, with a peak of 12 on 23rd March.

Autumn A rare migrant, generally seen singly at Kibbutz Eilot fields. In autumn 1980, 32 were recorded between 22nd August and 11th November, most during the second and third weeks of October.

Ages and morphs In both spring and autumn, most migrants are juveniles of a rufous, pale-brown morph (adults of this morph breed in western Asia, southeast Europe and south to Levant). The blackish-brown morph (breeds in eastern Europe and in Asia, including Asia Minor) forms 5-10% of the passage in both seasons. Single individuals of the yellowish-white form, which appears to be a variant of the rufous morph and which breeds in the Negev and Syrian Deserts, are also recorded at Eilat.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Spring This species is scarce, migrating singly from the first week in March until mid May, especially from mid March to mid April. The largest seasonal total was 113, in spring 1985 (fig. 15). The peak day at Eilat was 3rd April 1983, when 38 (28 males, ten females) were recorded.

Autumn In autumn 1980, ten flew over between 4th September and 16th October,

The inclusion of plates 63-68 & 70-93 in colour has been assisted by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany.*



63. Adult female Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, Israel, March 1988 (*Klaus Bjerre*)



64. Adult male Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Israel, May 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)
65. Immature Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Israel, November 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



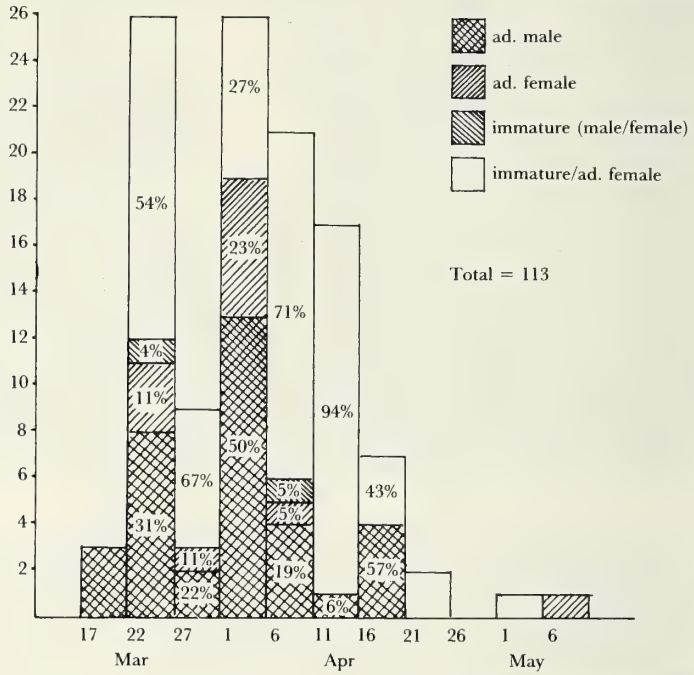


Fig. 15. Migration of Pallid Harriers *Circus macrourus* through Eilat in spring 1985 by five-day periods, showing percentages according to age/sex

concentrated during the third week in September, while in 1987 a total of 12 was recorded during 16th October to 15th November.

Age and sex Of the 113 in spring 1985, 35 (31%) were adult males. Most males pass in March and early April, while from the end of March more females are observed. Third-calendar-year individuals also pass in spring, as well as a few juveniles (second-calendar-years), chiefly during the second half of April. The general impression is that most Pallid Harriers passing Eilat in spring are adult males and females (fig. 15); it is possible that juveniles spend the northern summer in Africa.

In autumn 1980, only one of the ten individuals recorded was an adult male.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Spring A scarce but regular migrant, appearing later and in smaller numbers than Pallid Harrier, from the end of March until the third week in May (especially in mid April). The earliest spring date was 19th March 1986 (two males). The peak day was 7th April 1983 (eight individuals).

Autumn Smaller numbers than in spring (e.g., in 1980, 14 between 31st August and 8th October).

Age and sex Of 55 recorded in spring 1983, 16 were adult males. It appears that the spring passage consists of about 25% adult males, 40% adult females and 35% immatures.

(Note: There are problems in separating Pallid and Montagu's Harriers in non-adult-male plumages, resulting in approximately one-third of individuals remaining unidentified; these latter are not included in the figures here, but see table 1.)

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Spring Small numbers (table 1) are recorded from the end of March until mid June, chiefly during the third week in April. The migration is dispersed, and many which fly over the fields are missed by counters.



66. Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Israel, March 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



67. Adult Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Israel, October 1989 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)

68. Adult Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Israel, April 1987/88 (*Yossi Eshbol*)



Autumn Fewer than in spring, mostly from the second half of September until the second half of November, with the peak period during October and the first week of November. In autumn 1980, a total of 21 was recorded.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

It is difficult to determine whether those moving past Eilat are migrating or simply making local movements. Only those displaying a clear migratory pattern in association with other raptors were recorded as migrants.

Spring Regular passage occurs from the beginning of February until mid June, concentrated from mid March to mid April. Maximum 190, in spring 1983.

Autumn Passage occurs from mid August to the end of November. In autumn 1980, a total of 298 was observed.

RARE SPECIES

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A rare vagrant. Five spring records (between 28th March and 9th April) during 1977-85, and one autumn observation (August 1989).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Only two records: on 19th October 1982 and 28th October 1986.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Only four individuals (juveniles/immatures) recorded to date: two in spring (last week of February and first week of March) and two in autumn (November).

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

A rare but regular migrant. Highest spring total 22, in 1977 (21st February to 7th May). Small flocks of 10-30 may be seen migrating with flocks of Steppe Eagles in October-November. (Although this species' migratory behaviour seems similar to that of all other raptors, we believe that at least some individuals are juveniles making local movements.)

Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

An extremely rare migrant, both in spring (February-March) and in autumn (October-November). Usually only one or two in any season, accompanying flocks of Steppe Eagles.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

During 1982-89, five (all first-winter/first-summer) recorded in Eilat and Sinai, between December and May.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

An extremely rare migrant, both in spring (mid February to end of March) and in autumn (mid October to mid November), with no more than two recorded in any season.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

A very rare migrant, with single juveniles passing in spring (February-May) and autumn (October-November). Highest seasonal total was six, in autumn 1980.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

One ringed at Eilat on 20th April 1987.

Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

Infrequently observed. In spring, most pass during mid March to mid April (highest seasonal total ten, in 1983); in autumn, most are recorded during end of September to mid November (total of 13 in 1980).

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

A very rare migrant, both in spring and in autumn, with no more than six individuals, mainly juveniles or immatures, recorded in any one season. Most spring records were between the



69. First-winter Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, Israel, November 1986 (*Eyal Bartov*)

third week of February and mid April, with only a few as late as May; in autumn, mainly in October-November. (A resident pair of Bonelli's Eagles nests in the mountains west of Eilat.)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

A rare but regular migrant. In spring it migrates from the beginning of February until mid May, especially during the first week of April (peak of ten on 5th April 1983). Recorded in autumn from the third week in August until the second week of November, particularly in the first half of October; in autumn 1980, a total of 20 was observed.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A rare migrant in spring (chiefly mid April to the end of May) and in autumn (mainly October), seen mostly in the fields of Kibbutz Eilot. The maximum number in one day was eight, on 8th May 1982.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A rare migrant. A few are seen in spring, mainly from the end of February until the beginning of April (seasonal maximum three, in 1982). More frequent in autumn, when most are females and juveniles; in autumn 1980, six were recorded during 17th October to 14th November.



70-75. Adult male Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus*, showing range of plumage variation, Israel, May 1987 & 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk, Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate, Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road, Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hannington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports

Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the country

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU

arl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved a world wide reputation for excellence.

their latest Binocular Survey, the rs of the universally respected,

British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ZEISS
Germany Carl Ze

(D96



UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in.

★ Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve

on the B2145 into Selsey, W. Sussex, on **Sundays 29th March, 26th April, 31st May** and **28th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve

on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat andBall station on **Sundays 5th April, 3rd May** and **7th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir

about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the Information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 19th April, 17th May** and **14th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Bewl Water

on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 22nd March, 26th April, 31st May** and **28th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm). *Show this advert for half price parking.

★ Wat Tyler Country Park

on a minor road off A13 south of Basildon, Essex, on **Sunday 12th April** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ College Lake Wildlife Centre

near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the Visitor Centre (main, central hide) on **10th May** and **14th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Slimbridge, Glos.

(M5, Jct 13) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Monday 20th April** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

FREE TRIPOD, WORTH £40 (SOLIGOR) with certain* telescopes – or pay the extra for a different tripod.

Some examples of our stocks:

At least £50 allowance for your old binos when buying these # Zeiss models

ZEISS	£
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 30 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)#	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)#	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699

BAUSCH & LOMB	
8 x 42 BA Elite	629
10 x 42 BA Elite	629
Custom 8 x 36 B	229
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
22 x 60 B Elite Scope	289
22 x 60 BGA Elite Scope	309
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349

SWAROVSKI *	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
10 x 40 Diana	372
AT80 scope (body)	535
22x (WA) eyepiece	70
20–60x zoom eyepiece	160
AT80 case	91

LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649

SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	239
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239

FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179

NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	40
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265

KOWA *	
TSN-1 (45°) body	295
TSN-2 body	(295) 316
TSN-3 body	(295) 316
TSN-4 body	(555) 636
25x or 40x eyepiece	(555) 636
20x (WA) eyepiece	(63) 69
30x (WA) eyepiece	(96) 109
20–60x zoom eyepiece	(119) 139
60x eyepiece	(96) 109
77x eyepiece	(99) 119
Camera adaptor 800mm	(107) 129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	(179) (199)
Kowa case	(24) 25
Weathershield case	(38) 40
Spare OG cover	5
27x (WA) eyepiece (Screw fit)	(59) 64
Eyepiece dust dome	15

VIEWMASTER	
45° scope with zoom EP	199

OPTOLYTH *	
8 x 30 Alpin	(205) 227
8 x 40 Alpin	(225) 246
10 x 40 Alpin	(230) 249
10 x 50 Alpin	(241) 268
12 x 50 Alpin	(247) 273
7 x 42 Alpin	(238) 257
TBG80 telescope body	(350) 390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36

OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250

(Bracket prices while stocks last)

	£
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399

BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
15–45x zoom EP	49
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15

REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	199
10 x 50 RA roof prism	249

GREENKAT *	
FFS 7 x 35 Focus Free	69
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15

OBSERVATION	
Vixen 20 x 100	750
Vixen 30 x 80	375
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215

MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81

NIGHT VISION	
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	990
Infra-red, rechargeable searchlight	120

ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180

TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D2	73
Slik D3	85
Manfrotto 144/200	105
Manfrotto 144/128	100
Manfrotto 190/200	93
Uni-Loc	90
Soligor 550	40
Universal clamp	23
Hide clamp II	38
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	50
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps from	7
T-mounts, from	10

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours** Mon-Sat 9am to 5pm (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location** Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking** 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop** Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports** including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit** (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals** Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone: 081-648 8822

Fax: 081-687 2021

VISA

(D989)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books

All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Alerstam *Bird Migration* (CUP) £60.00 ☐

Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP) £22.50 ☐

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐

Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins) £14.99 ☐

Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐

Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐

Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm) £35.00 ☐

*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐

Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐

Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) £49.50 ☐

*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐

Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* 4th edn (Ibis) £19.00 ☐

Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐

*del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx) (DUE SEPTEMBER) PREPUBLICATION OFFER (normal price £95.00) £73.00 ☐

de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐

Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond) Paperback £11.95 ☐

Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐

*ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm) Paperback £25.00 ☐

Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser) £27.00 ☐

Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐

*Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm) (DUE JUNE) £27.99 ☐

*Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £68.00 ☐ vol. 2 £68.00 ☐ vol. 3 £68.00 ☐ vol. 4 (DUE SEPTEMBER) PREPUBLICATION PRICE (full price £85.00) £72.00 ☐

*Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐

Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser) £18.50 ☐

Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐

Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐

Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐

*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00) £10.00 ☐

Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐

Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press) Hardback £22.50 ☐

Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐

Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐

Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP) £19.95 ☐

Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £22.50 ☐

Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐

Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £35.00 ☐

Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐

*LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm) Paperback £12.99 ☐

Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐

Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐

Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU/OUP) £125.00 ☐

National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xii to complete your order.

British BirdShop (continued)

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Newman *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa* (Southern Books) Paperback £15.95 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm) Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (British Birds) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver) £18.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (HarperCollins) Paperback £14.99 ☐ Hardback £30.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
*Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France) £46.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) £6.95 ☐

Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING APRIL 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro a/c no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**



731. Adult female Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus*, showing range of plumage variation, Israel, May 1987 & 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



82. Second-summer Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*, Israel, April 1986 (*Liora & Ofer Bahat*)



83. First-summer Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*, Israel, April 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)

84. First-summer Steppe Eagles *Aquila nipalensis*, Israel, March 1987 (*Yossi Eshbol*)



Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*

Spring Occurs from the third week in April until the third week in May, chiefly during the first week in May; singles may be seen as late as mid June. Some have been seen migrating with Sooty Falcons *F. concolor* in the Eilat mountains. Highest seasonal total was 21, in spring 1986.

Autumn Singles are seen from the beginning of October until mid November, chiefly during the third week of October. In autumn 1986, 12 individuals were recorded.

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

A rare migrant. Singles have been recorded from the end of March, becoming more frequent from the end of April to the end of May (only adults have been recorded in spring). Adults as well as juveniles have been observed from mid October to mid November.

This species breeds in the Negev and the Dead Sea area; those migrating over Eilat may belong to this population. Six pairs breed in the Eilat area.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

A rare migrant. One to four individuals observed in almost every spring (mainly in third week of March, with records up to early May) and autumn (mid October to end of November). Most are immatures. The daily maximum was three, on 3rd November 1981. (The true number of Sakers is somewhat greater; owing to problems in separating this species from Lanner *F. biarmicus*, many individuals are recorded as 'Lanner/Saker'.)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A rare migrant in spring (mainly February to early May) and in autumn (September-October). To date, there are 17 definite records of the northern race *calidus*, one of which was trapped on 9th May 1984.

RESIDENT SPECIES AND LOCAL MOVEMENTS

The following six species are resident breeders in the Eilat area and often show a pattern of local movement, and/or occasionally even some true passage.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*

A rare vagrant during migration and in winter. Single juveniles were observed in February 1979 and in December 1980, and a sub-adult moved north-northeast on 3rd April 1985. One pair bred in the area up to 1960s.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

During the 1970s and early 1980s, when there were over ten pairs of these vultures in the southern Arava, local movement southwards into Sinai and back was frequently observed, often reaching Eilat. This population is now reduced to only one or two individuals, and the species last bred in 1989.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

One to three pairs nest in the mountains west and north of Eilat. Juveniles from these and from other pairs nesting in the Negev fly over the Eilat area.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*

One or two pairs nest in Sinai, apparently not far from Eilat. In some years, adults and juveniles are seen almost daily in the mountains west of Eilat, particularly in the Ein Netafim area.

Lanner *Falco biarmicus*

Spring totals of up to seven (1985), mostly immatures, are recorded as migrants from mid February to the beginning of May, mainly during the second half of March. Totals of up to two (1982) are observed in autumn (mainly September).

The race *tanypterus* breeds in Eilat and Negev area, and juveniles show local movements in the Eilat area; to prevent their being mistakenly recorded as migrants, only individuals seen migrating with other raptors or otherwise identified as adults of the European race *feldeggi* were recorded as migrants.



85. Adult Black Kite *Milvus migrans,* Israel, November 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



86. First-winter Black Kite *Milvus migrans,* November 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)

87. Adult 'Steppe' Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus,* Israel, April 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)





88. First-summer 'Steppe' Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, Israel, April 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)

89. Immature 'Steppe' Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, Israel, April 1987 (*Bernd Thies*)



90. Light-morph Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*, Israel, April 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



91. First-summer female Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*, Israel, April 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



92. Female Levant Sparrowhawks *Accipiter brevipes*, Israel, April 1987 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)
93. Adult male Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*, Israel, April 1988 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)



Owing to difficulties in separating the races of this species in non-adult plumages, it is in most cases impossible to determine whether individuals are true migrants or dispersing local birds.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

A resident breeder in the Eilat area. Although individuals have displayed migratory patterns, we believe these to have been dispersive or short-distance movements (of juveniles and immatures) only.

Migration routes of raptors in the Middle East

Observations in recent years at various points in the Middle East have provided an insight into the migration routes of those raptors which breed in eastern Europe and western/central Asia and winter in Africa. Major bottleneck areas exist not only at Eilat, but also, for example, at both ends of the Black Sea, in southeast Turkey, at Suez, and at the Bab-el-Mandeb strait between Yemen and Djibouti. Fig. 16 summarises the routes used by the commonest species in spring and autumn, and table 5 gives peak

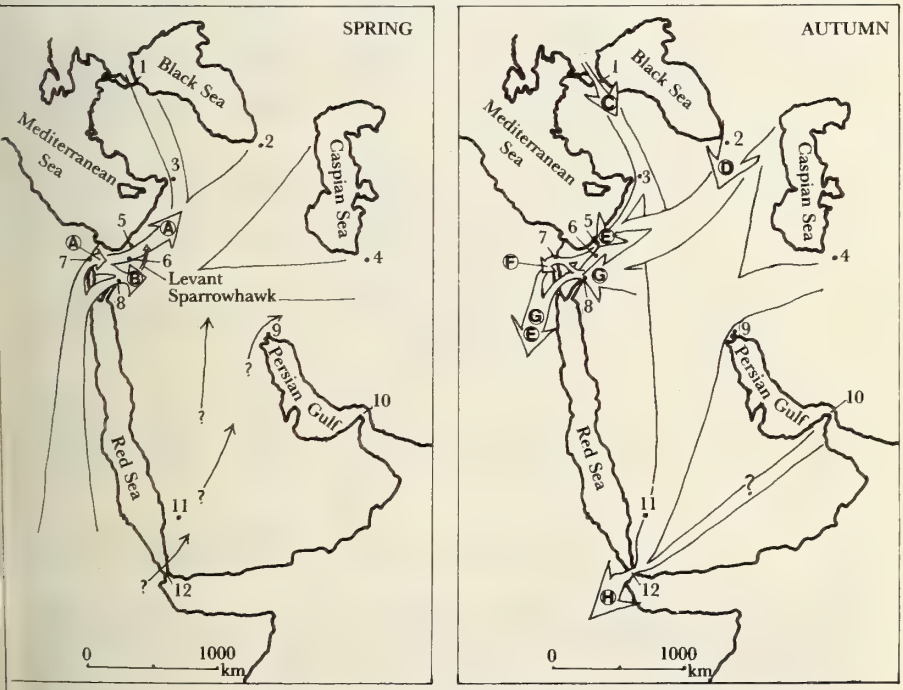


Fig. 16. Migration routes of raptors and major watchpoints in Middle East. Routes: A = Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Steppe Eagle *A. nipalensis* and Black Kite *Milvus migrans*; B = Steppe Eagle, Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, Black Kite, Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* and Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*; C = Black Kite, Honey Buzzard, Steppe Buzzard, Lesser Spotted Eagle and Levant Sparrowhawk; D = Black Kite, Honey Buzzard, Steppe Buzzard (and a few Steppe Eagles, Lesser Spotted Eagles and Levant Sparrowhawks); E = Honey Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk and Lesser Spotted Eagle; F = Lesser Spotted and Steppe Eagles; G = Steppe Eagle; H = Steppe Eagle, Steppe Buzzard and Black Kite. Watchpoints: 1 = Bosporus, 2 = East Pontics, 3 = Iskenderun, 4 = Southeast Caspian, 5 = Kfar Kasem, 6 = North Negev and Dead Sea, 7 = Suez, 8 = Eilat, 9 = Kuwait, 10 = Strait of Hormuz, 11 = North Yemen, 12 = Bab-el-Mandeb

Table 5. Peak seasonal totals (with years) of mo

Autumn observations were made from end of August to mid November, except November 1985) and Iskenderun (August to end of September); these limite Spring observations were made fro

In addition to the figures given, 115 Lesser Spotted Eagles were counted passir passing Kuwait during two days (no dates given) in autumn (Welch & Wel Vultures, 134 Short-toed Eagles, 13 Steppe Eagles and 953 Booted Eagl

Season AREA	Steppe Buzzard	Honey Buzzard	Black Kite	Steppe Eagle	Less Spott Eagl
Autumn					
TURKEY					
Bosporus	32,000 (1971)	26,000 (1971)	2,700 (1971)	2 (1971)	32,2 (198
E\|Pontics	205,000 (1976)	138,000 (1976)	5,800 (1976)	430 (1977)	7 (197
Iskenderun	470 (1965)	16,000 (1976)	506 (1976)	—	3,8 (197
ISRAEL					
Kfar Kasem/ northern valleys	2,166 (1989)	437,432 (1990)	1,734 (1990)	456 (1987)	141,0 (198
Eilat	150 (1980)	100 (1980)	100 (1980)	24,000 (1980)	(196
EGYPT					
Suez	850 (1984)	100 (1981)	100 (1981)	65,000 (1981)	31,0 (19
N YEMEN	703 (1985)	3 (1985)	82 (1985)	2,400 (1985)	
S RED SEA					
Djibouti	98,000 (1987)	17 (1987)	580 (1987)	76,000 (1987)	(19
Spring (few data available)					
ISRAEL					
Eilat	465,000 (1986)	850,000 (1985)	36,000 (1980)	75,000 (1985)	(19
N Negev/ Dead Sea	100,000 ± (1985)	'tens of 1,000s'	'1,000s'	5,000 ± (1985)	'1,0
EGYPT					
Suez	80,000 (1982)	630 (1982)	4,000 (1982)	16,000 (1982)	8 0 (19

seasonal counts for a number of species at watchpoints from which sufficient data are available. The routes in autumn and spring between East Europe/Asia and Africa are shown individually for the six most numerous species in figs. 17-22.

Autumn

Two major routes are apparent. The first, bypassing the eastern Mediterranean Sea and the northern Red Sea, includes raptor populations originating from the eastern part of the West Palearctic which arrive in the Middle East via both sides of the Black Sea. Only three of the commonest species are involved: Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard and Levant Sparrowhawk. These pass parallel to and close to the east

merous migrating raptors at various localities in Middle East

D outi (October to mid November), N Yemen (only nine days during 18th October-18th ol rvation periods mean that in some cases much/most of the passage was not recorded. th nd of February to the end of May

th southeast Caspian area during two hours on 11th October 1978 and 250 Steppe Eagles 19); and at Djibouti, over three consecutive days in early March 1990, totals of 733 Egyptian w recorded (Welch & Welch 1991). See table 1 for scientific names of species

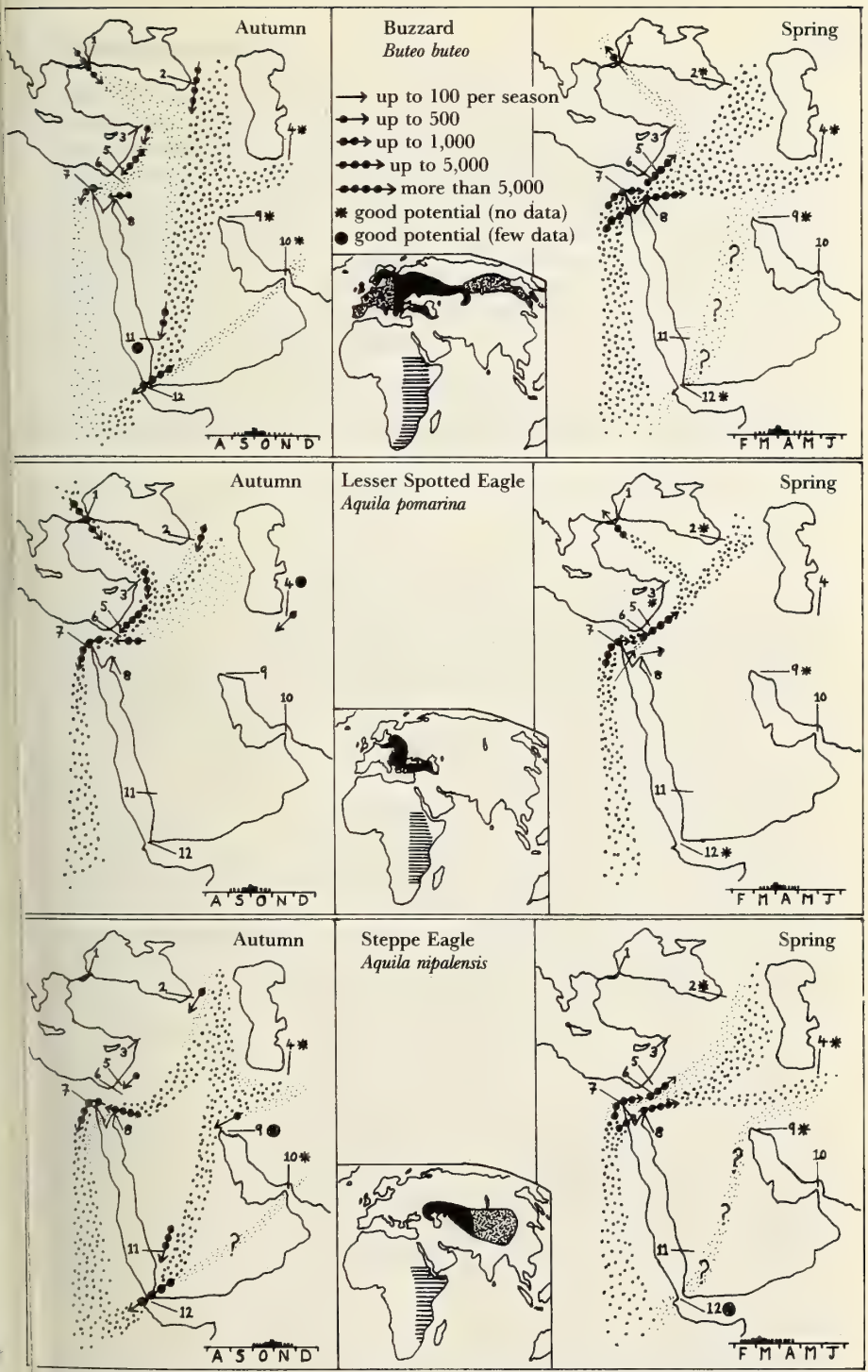
I ant Sp row- wk	Egyptian Vulture	Booted Eagle	Short-toed Eagle	References
00 (1 1)	550 (1971)	530 (1971)	2,300 (1971)	Beaman 1973; Porter & Beaman 1985; Bijlsma 1987; *Torgos* 2: 12-13; W. van den Bossche (verbally)
00 (1 6)	18 (1980)	470 (1976)	250 (1976)	Beaman (*Bull. Orn. Soc. Turkey*); Doherty, Parr *et al.* (*in litt.*)
00 (1 6)	870 (1976)	580 (1976)	720 (1976)	Sutherland & Brooks 1981
4 00 (1 6)	470 (1985)	2,000 (1986)	8,000 (1986)	Dovrat 1991; Tsovel & Allon 1991
00 (1 6)	10 (1980)	20 (1980)	130 (1980)	Shirihai 1982
50 (1 1)	1,000 (1984)	1,104 (1984)	12,000 (1984)	Bijlsma 1983; van Diggelen *et al.* (unpublished)
1 (1 5)	81 (1985)	7 (1985)	?	Porter & Christensen 1987
7 (1 7)	550 (1987)	1,100 (1987)	1,200 (1987)	Welch & Welch 1988
49 0 (1 7)	800 (1977)	170 (1977)	340 (1985)	This paper
7 0 (1 5)	1,000 (1985)	600 (1985)	1,750 (1985)	Shirihai 1987; Ben Zohar 1986; IRIC
0 (19)	1,200 (1982)	450 (1982)	3,000 (1982)	Wimpfheimer *et al.* 1983; Bruun 1985

Mediterranean coast and move through Israel towards Sinai, the Lesser Spotted Eagles crossing the Gulf of Suez at its northern end and the other two crossing in its central and southern parts. All three migrate along a single route (the 'Kfar Kasem route') through Israel, mostly between the end of August and mid October. A fourth species, the Steppe Eagle, enters the Middle East from breeding grounds in Central Asia mainly via the Caspian Sea area; it reaches the Arava Valley, passes over Sinai, and crosses the Gulf of Suez mostly in its northern parts. Autumn passage of Steppe Eagles in Israel is more or less restricted to the Eilat area, from mid October to mid November.

The second major route crosses the southern Red Sea and involves mostly eastern populations, but also some western ones, of three of the



Figs. 17-22. Migratory routes of the six most numerous raptor species through Middle East region in autumn and spring, with (inset) approximate breeding range (black = populations which migrate to Africa) and African wintering range. Stippled area shows apparent routes followed (larger dots indicate where vast majority of passage occurs)



Key to sites: 1 = Bosporus, 2 = East Pontics, 3 = Iskenderun, 4 = Southeast Caspian, 5 = Kfar Kasem, 6 = North Negev & Dead Sea, 7 = Suez, 8 = Eilat, 9 = Kuwait, 10 = Strait of Hormuz, 11 = North Yemen, 12 = Bab-el-Mandeb

commonest species. Steppe Eagles and Steppe Buzzards arrive mainly via the eastern end of the Black Sea and from north and south of the Caspian Sea. The Black Kite arrives via east and west of the Black Sea and probably also from both ends of the Caspian. All three pass along various routes between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf towards the southern Arabian Peninsula, where the routes converge to cross the southern Red Sea to Djibouti at the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, between mid September and mid November. It should be noted that, although no systematic counts have been made at Bab-el-Mandeb before October, most of 1,000 unidentified raptors observed from a light aircraft on 26th September 1987 were thought to be Honey Buzzards (Welch & Welch 1988); the bulk of this species' movement would probably occur during the preceding four weeks, and the possibility of a large autumn passage of Honey Buzzards at Bab-el-Mandeb cannot be discounted.

Spring

In contrast to the autumn, the bulk of the spring movement of raptors through the Middle East appears to follow the northern route, bypassing the Red Sea and the east Mediterranean. This migration involves all six of the most numerous species. They cross Sinai at various points and continue mainly through the southern and central Negev, the majority passing over 'the Eilat route'. Only one species, the Lesser Spotted Eagle, does not reach the Eilat region in any numbers in spring, passing instead over the Gulf of Suez, north Negev and Dead Sea area (see also Christensen & Sørensen 1989).

From the direction of movement in Israel and numbers recorded from Turkey, as well as the location of the known breeding areas, it seems that Lesser Spotted Eagles and Levant Sparrowhawks continue north to the eastern and western ends of the Black Sea. Steppe Buzzards and Steppe Eagles, however, continue on eastward routes direct to the area between the Black and Caspian Seas and probably also to the southern Caspian. Black Kites and Honey Buzzards break off on various routes, taking them to both ends of the Black Sea and to the Caspian Sea area. In Eilat, the flight directions of the last two species, as well as of Steppe Eagle and Steppe Buzzard, show a strong eastward tendency.

Unfortunately, data on raptor passage through the Middle East in spring are far from complete. The greatest mystery that still exists is to what extent spring movement takes place across the Bab-el-Mandeb strait. Large-scale passage of Steppe Eagles and Steppe Buzzards, and possibly also of Black Kites, at this latter site seems a strong likelihood, but the discovery there of a significant spring migration of Honey Buzzards would be very surprising. Three consecutive days' observation in Djibouti during 5th-7th March 1990 (i.e. during the peak period for Steppe Eagle passage at Eilat), however, recorded very few Steppe Eagles, (only 13) (Welch & Welch 1991), so this possibility remains open until more fieldwork is done in this area in spring. Interestingly, Welch & Welch (1991) also recorded, during their three-day watch, totals of 733 Egyptian Vultures, 953 Booted Eagles and 134 Short-toed Eagles,

indicating that the Djibouti route is almost certainly a major one for these species in spring.

If future studies show that at least some of the above three abundant species (Steppe Eagle, Steppe Buzzard and Black Kite) do migrate in significant numbers through Djibouti and Yemen in spring, this would partly explain why there is such a great annual variation in numbers recorded at the northern end of the Red Sea. When weather conditions at Bab-el-Mandeb are suitable, many raptors may cross there instead of continuing along the western side of the Red Sea to Sinai and Eilat, and numbers passing Eilat would consequently be low.

The excellent pioneering work of Welch & Welch (1988, 1991) in Djibouti deserves to be complemented by similar and extensive follow-up studies, particularly in spring and also if possible in early autumn. Other sites (e.g. Suez area, and the region between the eastern Black Sea and the Persian Gulf) also merit more intensive investigation, both in spring and in autumn.

Concluding remarks

Recent events in the Middle East, and the continuing instability of the political situation in many parts, serve to underline the importance of constant monitoring of the globally important migration routes of raptors (and many other species) that pass through this area. In addition, detailed information on bird migration through Israel has already helped in the successful opposition to planned projects which would have had disastrous consequences for migrants (e.g. the proposed 'Voice of America' transmitter in the Negev: *Brit. Birds* 83: 296).

Any temporary or long-term effects on raptor migration of the environmental devastation wreaked by the war in parts of the Middle East remain to be seen, although it is difficult to assess impact in the absence of detailed numerical data in such places as Kuwait. Observers are urged to attempt systematic counts in as many places as possible, thereby helping to fill in the existing gaps in our knowledge and at the same time determine the precise numbers and routes of the vast hordes of raptors which travel each year between Eurasia and Africa.

Finally, the importance of counting raptors on migration should not be underestimated. For migratory birds these counts are often the only methods of obtaining a reasonably accurate estimate of the total world population of the species concerned. For example, Cramp & Simmons (1980) indicated a population of 800-900 breeding pairs of Lesser Spotted Eagles for half of this species' entire breeding range, but counts on the main migration routes of this eagle have produced peak seasonal totals of 30,000-140,000 (see above): giving an obviously far higher population than previously supposed.

Acknowledgments

Thanks are due first and foremost to the several hundred volunteer observers from many countries who participated in the surveys and manned observation posts across the migration front; space precludes mentioning them all individually, but without their

expertise coupled with lengthy hours of hard work and dedication this paper could not even have been attempted. Special thanks are owed to the Israel Raptor Information Center and to the International Birdwatching Center at Eilat for the considerable financial support they provided to HS, enabling the surveys to be conducted; to Bill Laird, Anders Jonsson and Jeffrey Brown for their much-appreciated assistance and useful suggestions in the course of fieldwork and in co-ordinating the surveys; to Ehud Dovrat for his expert guidance and advice in all aspects of this work; and to Steen Christensen and Bill Clark for commenting so helpfully on an earlier draft of this paper (which did not then include 1987 and 1988 data). We are grateful to Shmulik Taggar for his invaluable assistance. Finally, we wish to thank Dr J. T. R. Sharrock for his encouragement and understanding during the preparation of this paper.

Summary

Within a world context, Eilat, at the northern end of the Red Sea in Israel, is one of the most important watchpoints for migrating raptors. Eilat lies on the edge of the Syro-African Rift Valley and is flanked by mountains reaching heights of 800 m to the west and 1,800 m to the east, with the Gulf of Aqaba immediately to the south and the Gulf of Suez to the southwest. From Eilat, the Rift Valley continues northwards for 200 km to the Dead Sea.

During 1977-88, migration surveys of raptors were conducted in nine seasons (springs of 1977, 1983 and 1985-88, autumns of 1980, 1986 and 1987), and studies were also made (mainly in spring) of the dynamics of migrating raptors in relation to local geographical features and weather factors. The prevailing northerly or northeasterly (head) wind is the most favourable one for raptor migration at this site, southerly or easterly winds pushing the route westwards and strong westerlies forcing raptors to cross the Gulf of Aqaba at a point farther south. The timing of the start of migration in the morning varies among species. In very general terms: in the earlier hours, raptors cross the valley some tens of kilometres north of Eilat, later crossing nearer to the town; during the hot midday hours, they rise to 1,500 m or more and move at greater speeds; during 12.00-16.00 hours, passage is blown off course and the crossing of the valley occurs high above the Bay of Eilat, or well west of the town over the Negev Desert; later in the afternoon, the raptors lose height and return to migrate above the Eilat mountains, where many also roost.

Combined totals of all raptors were as follows: (springs) 1977—763,961, 1983—474,124, 1985—1,193,229, 1986—873,388, 1987—778,228, and 1988—688,659; (autumns) 1980—25,998, 1986—12,357, and 1987—12,548. Of the 42 raptor species recorded at Eilat, the most abundant (tens or hundreds of thousands each spring) are: Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (max. 75,053, in 1985); Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (max. 31,774, in 1988; also, an exceptional 36,690 recorded in spring 1980); Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus* (max. 465,827, in 1986); Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (max. 49,836, in 1987); and Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (max. 851,598, in 1985). 'Common' species (up to 1,000 per season) are Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, while a further nine species were recorded as 'uncommon' (normally up to 100 or so per season) and 18 as 'rare' (generally only in single figures); an additional six species which are resident in the Eilat/Sinai area were recorded on local movements.

In addition, the various routes followed by Palearctic raptors through the wider Middle East region in spring and autumn are examined and discussed. There is a need for further systematic counts at many localities in order to fill in the existing gaps in our knowledge and to determine more exactly the population numbers and precise routes of the raptor species concerned.

References

Beaman, M. 1973. Bosphorus migration, autumn 1971. *Bull. Orn. Soc. Turkey* 8: 3-4.

Ben Zohar, E. 1986. Survey of migration of birds of prey at Beersheba, spring 1985. *Torgos* 5: 44-59. [In Hebrew, with English summary.]

Bijlsma, R. G. 1983. The migration of raptors near Suez, Egypt, autumn 1981. *Sandgrouse* 5: 19-44.

—— 1987. Bottleneck areas for migratory birds in the Mediterranean region. ICBP Study Report No. 18.

BRUUN, B. 1985. Spring migration of raptors at Suez compared with Eilat. *Dutch Birding* 7: 6-10.
CHRISTENSEN, S., LOU, O., MÜLLER, M., & WOHLMUTH, H. 1981. The spring migration of raptors in southern Israel and Sinai. *Sandgrouse* 3: 1-42.
—— & SØRENSEN, U. G. 1989. A review of the migration and wintering of *Aquila pomarina* and *Aquila nipalensis orientalis*. In MEYBURG, B.-U., & CHANCELLOR, R. D. (eds.). *Raptors in the Modern World*. WWGBP: Berlin, London & Paris.
CLARK, W. S. 1987a. The dark morph of the Marsh Harrier. *Brit. Birds* 80: 61-72.
—— 1987b. The rufous morph of the Booted Eagle. *Proc. 4th International Identification Meeting, Eilat 1st-8th November 1986*: 21-27.
CRAMP, S., & SIMMONS, K. E. L. (eds.) 1980. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. vol. 2. Oxford.
DOVRAT, E. 1982. Summary of five years' survey of raptor migration at Kfar Kassam. *Torgos* 2: 53-115. [In Hebrew, with English summary.]
—— 1991. The Kefar Kassem raptor migration survey, autumns 1977-1987: a brief summary. In YEKUTIEL, D. (ed.), *Raptors in Israel: passage and wintering populations*. IBCE, Eilat.
GORNEY, E., & CLARK, W. 1984. Trapping and ringing diurnal raptors in Eilat, spring 1984. *Torgos* 4: 61-78, 97. [In Hebrew, with English summary.]
HOLMGREN, V. 1984. Booted Eagles in intermediate plumage seen at Eilat, Israel. *Sandgrouse* 6: 76-79.
JAFFE, S. 1988. Climate of Israel. In YOM-TOV, Y., & TCHERNOV, E. (eds.), *The Zoogeography of Israel*. Netherlands.
MINDELL, D. P. 1986. Migration of North American breeding raptors: endogenous versus environmental control, biogeography and hazard to aircraft. *Dissertation Abstract International (B)* 46 (8): 2590.
NAGY, A. C. 1976. Population trend indices based on 40 years of autumn counts at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in north-east Pennsylvania. In CHANCELLOR, R. D. (ed.), *Proc. World Conference on Birds of Prey, Vienna 1975*. ICBP, Cambridge.
PORTER, R. F., & BEAMAN, M. A. S. 1985. A resume of raptor migration in Europe and the Middle East. In NEWTON, I., & CHANCELLOR, R. D. (eds.), *Conservation Studies on Raptors*. ICBP Tech. Publ. No. 5.
—— & CHRISTENSEN, S., 1987. The autumn migration of raptors and other soaring birds in North Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 9: 121-124.
—— & WILLIS, I. 1968. The autumn migration of soaring birds at the Bosphorus. *Ibis* 110: 520-537.
ROBERTS, P. M. 1985. The Hawk Migration Association of North America. *WWGBP Bull.* 2: 141-146.
SHIRIHAI, H. 1982. The autumn migration of Steppe Eagles at Eilat, Israel, 1980. *Sandgrouse* 4: 108-110.
—— 1987. Eilat—an intercontinental highway for migrating raptors. In *Eilat—an intercontinental highway for migrating birds*. IBCE, Eilat.
—— 1988. Raptor migration at Eilat in spring 1987. *Torgos* 13: 47-53. [In Hebrew, with English summary.]
—— & DOHERTY, P. 1990. Steppe Buzzard plumages. *Birding World* 3: 10-14.
—— & FORSMAN, D. 1992. Steppe Buzzard plumages and identification problems with Long-legged Buzzard on migration. *Dutch Birding* 14.
—— & YEKUTIEL, D. 1991. Raptor migration at Eilat—spring 1988. In YEKUTIEL, D. (ed.), *Raptors in Israel: passage and wintering populations*. IBCE, Eilat.
SMITH, N. G. 1985. Dynamics of the transisthmian migration of raptors between Central and South America. In NEWTON, I., & CHANCELLOR, R. D. (eds.), *Conservation Studies on Raptors*. ICBP Tech. Publ. No. 5 (pp. 271-290).
SUTHERLAND, W. J., & BROOKS, D. J. 1981. Autumn migration of raptors, storks, pelicans and spoonbills at Belen Pass, Southern Turkey. *Sandgrouse* 2: 1-21.
TSOVEL, A., & ALLON, D. 1991. Soaring bird migration survey in the Northern Valleys of Israel—autumns 1988-1990. In YEKUTIEL, D. (ed.), *Raptors in Israel: passage and wintering populations*. IBCE, Eilat.
VAN DIGGELEN, R., *et al.* Unpubl. Raptor migration over Suez in the autumn of 1984.
WELCH, G. R., & WELCH, H. J. 1986. *Djibouti II—Autumn 1985*. Privately published.
—— & —— 1988. The autumn migration of raptors and other soaring birds across the Bab-el-Mandeb Straits. *Sandgrouse* 10: 26-50.
—— & —— 1991. Spring raptor observations from Djibouti. *OSME Bulletin* 26: 25-27.

WIMPFHEIMER, D., BRUUN, B., BAHA EL DIN, SHERIF M., & JENNINGS, M. C. 1983. *The migration of birds of prey in the northern Red Sea area: report of the 1982 Suez Study.* Holy Land Conservation Fund, New York.

Hadoram Shirihai, PO Box 4168, Eilat 88102, Israel
David A. Christie, 4 Steventon Road, Harefield, Southampton SO2 5HA

Volunteers who would like to participate in the Raptor Migration Survey in Eilat and at other places in Israel should write to IBCE, PO Box 774, Eilat 88106, Israel, or to IRIC, Doar Na Zfon-Yehuda 90907, Israel.

Notes



Griffon Vulture drowning in sea In the afternoon of 18th September 1988, we visited Cabo Trafalgar, Cádiz, southwest Spain, to look at seabirds. The wind was not very favourable, being strong easterly. After a while, we discovered a Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* flying about 50 m above the shore to the west of us, and heading out over the sea away from land in a southerly direction. We followed the vulture for a long time through our telescopes. When it was about 1 km from land, it headed southeastwards, apparently to keep land in sight, but the strong wind drifted it farther away and, when 3-4 km out, it suddenly lost height and continued flying close above the surface; about 5 km from land, it stretched out its legs as if intending to land, reduced speed by flapping its wings forward, and alighted on the water. During the next few minutes, we saw the wings flapping between the waves as if the vulture were trying to get airborne again. Finally, the movements ceased and the Griffon Vulture disappeared.

KENNETH BENGTSSON and ERIK HIRSCHFELD
Jacob Pers väg 7, S-232 00 Arlöv, Sweden

The possibility that this individual was sick, or suffering from the effects of poisoning, has to be considered. This observation is also interesting in view of other reports of Griffon Vultures seen flying out to sea. In this context, it is worth drawing attention to the extraordinary observation at noon on 1st September 1965 of five huge eagle-like birds flying past Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, and the suggestion, 11 years later, by Dr C. J. Henty that they were perhaps Griffon Vultures (*Cape Clear Bird Obs. Rep.* 7: 16-17; *Cape Clear Bird Obs. Bull.* 37: 3-5). EDS

One Hen Harrier nestling feeding another In their monograph on the Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, Bunn, Warburton & Wilson (1982) mentioned young owlets of that species feeding their younger siblings in the nest, something that no other British or Irish bird species apart from Moorhen *Gallinula*

chloropus, House Martin *Delichon urbica* and Swallow *Hirundo rustica* is known to do. Certainly, it is not normal behaviour among raptors.



94. Nestling Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus*, Co. Cork, June 1974 (*Richard T. Mills*)

In June 1974, on open moorland in Co. Cork, I watched the nest of a Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* from a hide less than 4 m away. The female harrier had just left, having fed the older and larger of the two nestlings, when the younger one crawled back into the nest from the cover of the surrounding vegetation where it had been hiding, calling all the time. The older chick then apparently responded to these hunger calls: it made its way over to its sibling, and proceeded to feed it with some of the left-over prey items (plate 94). At times the older nestling covered the other with one of its wings, in a most protective manner, while presenting it with small morsels of food. I observed this remarkable event on only one occasion. As there was another harrier's nest containing five unhatched eggs less than 400 m away on another slope of the same hill, where the male put in only sporadic appearances, this was a possible case of polygamy, resulting in the female with young having to spend a lot of time hunting, thus leaving the young on their own for long periods. Nevertheless, at the first sign of rain or drizzle, she immediately reappeared to brood them.

RICHARD T. MILLS
Redwing, 44 Halldene Avenue, Bishopstown, Cork, Ireland

Donald Watson has commented: 'I have no experience or knowledge of such an incident, nor have I seen any reference to it in the literature. Clearly, it would be most likely to be detected by someone watching from a hide, as was the case with Richard Mills. I would not like to comment further, but I am not convinced that the long absences of the female would have made sibling-feeding more likely than normal.' EDS

Buzzard with live common eel On 10th October 1985, while driving along a road by Colliford Reservoir on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, Colin Reed and I saw a Buzzard *Buteo buteo* fly up from the roadside a few metres

ahead of us with something dangling from its talons. We stopped and watched as it flew around, followed by a second Buzzard. Eventually, we were able to identify the very dark and glistening prey as a common eel *Anguilla anguilla*; it was alive, and we could see it coiling up as the Buzzard held it with one foot by or near the head. We judged the eel to be 30-35 cm in length. Where and how the eel was obtained were not known, but it seems possible that it had been scooped from shallow water at the reservoir edge, or picked up while it crossed damp ground. Eels are not specifically mentioned among the foods of Buzzard listed in *BWP* (vol. 2), which states: 'Fish rarely taken and then dead or incapacitated.' Brown (1976, *British Birds of Prey*) recorded that 'oddments such as eels or trout might even be taken, perhaps picked up dead'.

GRAHAM MADGE
8 Lame John's Field, Crediton, Devon EX17 1EB

Kestrel apparently robbing Short-eared Owl Between 12.30 and 14.30 GMT on 22nd December 1985, at Netherfield Gravel-pits, near Nottingham, I was watching four Short-eared Owls *Asio flammeus* quartering the area when one was suddenly attacked by a female Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. The two locked feet for a moment about 1 m above the ground, before the Kestrel flew off. The owl continued to hunt, dropping into the grass onto prey. The Kestrel returned, hovered over and defecated onto the owl, and then dropped down next to it and started pulling at the prey; the falcon flew off with something in its talons to a nearby post. The owl remained on the ground for some ten minutes, after which the Kestrel flew away; the owl then rejoined the other three and continued quartering the surrounding area.

GREG SCOTT
152 Surgeys Lane, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8GB

Kestrel preying on House Martin nest On 1st July 1986, at Winchester College, Hampshire, I watched a male Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* attempt to remove young House Martins *Delichon urbica* from their nest. The falcon patrolled back and forth along the eaves of the building for about a minute, mobbed by several adult martins; it then swiftly turned inwards and clung to one of the nests, its tail fanned against the wall for support, rather in the manner of a Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*, but flapping its wings vigorously in an attempt to keep its hold. Surprisingly, it succeeded in removing one young martin, but it dropped this, together with considerable amounts of nest material, on to the ground directly below. *BWP* (vol. 2) makes no mention of Kestrels preying on other birds at the nest, and I have never seen a Kestrel perform (under any circumstances) such acrobatic behaviour as this.

S. K. WOOLLEY
Willingale House, 2 Butts Farm, Butts Green, Lockerley, near Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0JG

Non-aggressive behaviour of Peregrine On 19th February 1989, at the Connah's Quay DNS Reserve, Cheshire, we saw an adult male Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* rise from a ditch with a freshly killed Teal *Anas crecca* and land on a bank some 200 m from the hide. After five minutes, during which the falcon plucked the prey, two Carrion Crows *Corvus corone* landed

25 m from it. One of the crows approached the Peregrine and, without any threat display from the latter, was allowed to take a portion of the kill. This attracted several more crows, and the falcon took off with the prey and flew a short distance before resuming feeding. The crows followed and made many further attempts to take the Teal: in each case the Peregrine took off and fled from them, showing no aggressive behaviour and not once attempting to 'mantle' the prey.

L. FAIRMAN and R. H. HARVEY
62 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5HZ

Robin 'anting' with millipede On 30th June 1985, while working in my garden at Stapleford, Cambridge, I turned up a millipede (Diplopoda), which I cracked with my thumbnail and threw down on the ground. Within seconds, a Robin *Erithacus rubecula* flew down, took the creature in its bill and began to 'ant' with it. The Robin seemed in a state of great excitement as it pushed the millipede through the fluffed-up feathers on its back and the primaries of both wings; it soon flew into cover, however, and I was unable to determine whether it ate the millipede or not. I subsequently obtained a specimen of the millipede, and this was identified as *Tachypodoiulus niger* (the common black millipede) by the Ministry of Agriculture in Cambridge.

B. HARRUP
49 Priam's Way, Stapleford, Cambridge CB2 5DT

Dr K. E. L. Simmons has commented as follows: 'Application to the back is not usual for a chat, flycatcher or thrush. I have no doubt, however, that the bird was "anting", but with this millipede instead of the more usual ants (for which there are now several records). I would refer you to the note and my appended comment in *Brit. Birds* 62: 284-285.'

This contribution was submitted prior to the publication of *BWP* vol. 5, where it is stated (pages 604-605) in the entry for the Robin: 'Active anting with *Formica* and *Lasius* ants occasional . . . but more frequently uses millipedes, especially *Iulus* [which includes *T. niger*] . . . Holds millipede or ant (exceptionally up to 4) in bill and rubs it on underside of extended and raised wing, with spread tail thrust sideways and forward to press behind.' We apologise to Brian Harrup for the delay in publication. EDS

Letter

Priorities for conservationists I read with interest Sir Derek Barber's 'Viewpoint' article (*Brit. Birds* 84: 432-435) and am in broad agreement with many of his points.

I think, however, that education is the most basic item that conservationists should be addressing. Education is essential to develop an understanding of the way that politics, economics, scientific research and the environment interact together. This understanding is vital for effective conservation.

Rather than concentrating on where an installation should be put, we should first establish that it is really needed under a programme of sustainable development (improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems).

We are often told that money is better spent on research and buying reserves than on education. In view of the unprecedented losses of semi-natural habitats since 1949, this claim seems hard to substantiate. Education, research and reserve acquisition are equally important, and should be given equal resources by conservation organisations.

SIMON ALBRECHT
12 Hemingford Road, Cambridge CB1 3BZ

Reviews

A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe. Illustrated by Ian Lewington. Text by Per Alström & Peter Colston. HarperCollins, London, 1991. 448 pages; 129 colour plates; 409 line-drawings. £14.99.

Little more than four years ago, a general assessment of field guides in this journal (*Brit. Birds* 80: 401-403) concluded that a successful field guide must include all the species likely to be seen within a given geographical area. Laudable though this ideal may be, it has become increasingly unrealistic.

In the early days of field guides, few observers encountered vagrants and accidentals more than two or three times a year, and such species could reasonably be dealt with in a cursory manner. In recent years, however, rare birds have become the primary (sometimes sole) target of an increasingly large and mobile body of observers, who require frequent access to accurate and precise texts, covering what are sometimes very difficult identification problems. Even birders who rarely travel abroad now include on their bookshelves a variety of North American and Asiatic field guides, or guides dealing with species groups on a world scale (such as the superb Christopher Helm series).

Such guides will always provide the most complete sources of reference for extralimitals, but, as it is not feasible to take such a library into the field, a clear need has emerged for a single volume dealing exclusively with the rare birds of Britain and Europe. Given the increase in recent years of relatively sophisticated identification techniques for a whole spectrum of species, and the need for great precision in both text and illustrations when dealing with tricky identification problems, provision of such a book is no simple task.

The credentials of the three who have produced *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* are certainly sound: one of the most prolific of authors on critical identification topics; a curator of the national collection of bird skins at Tring, who is Museum Consultant to the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC); and the winner of the *British Birds* 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' award in 1985. So, my expectations of this guide were high. Have they been met? Almost unreservedly so.

The 300 or so species covered are:

1. true vagrants, not breeding in Europe and which are only rarely recorded, and
2. very rare breeding birds (generally fewer than 100 pairs), and not seen in large numbers on migration.

The authors bend the above definitions to include very localised but more prolific breeding species, such as Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* and Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*. Species which are relatively common on the Continent, and are rare only in a British context, are, however, not included. At the rear of the book is a list of 78 such species which featured on the list of species considered by the BBRC up to the end of 1990 (Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* and Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* have subsequently been dropped

from the BBRC list). As the authors point out, these species are all dealt with in the main European field guides, but, nevertheless, it will disappoint British observers that they will still need a second reference when confronted by a putative Great Snipe *Gallinago media* or Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*, for example. To have included an additional 80 species, however, would have made the book unmanageably large, or resulted in less comprehensive detail per species, so the compass chosen seems reasonable.

A general introduction includes a discussion of the mechanics of vagrancy and an admirably detailed but rather detached discussion of topography, moult and ageing. It is a pity that the opportunity was not taken to relate these latter topics to the practical techniques of bird identification; a brief section along the lines of Grant & Mullarney's *The New Approach to Bird Identification* could usefully have been incorporated.

The main body of the book comprises 272 pages of text, and 129 pages of plates and captions, the latter all together at the centre of the book. It is thus difficult to consult the main illustration and text at the same time, but each text is accompanied by a thumb-nail sketch which, although small, manages to display a great amount of detail, and 'whole bird' sketches are sometimes accompanied by supplementary sketches of crucial features, such as the tail patterns of certain wheatears and warblers.

Each text describes features common to all plumages, followed by details of each distinct seasonal and age-related plumage. Finally, there are brief paragraphs on habitat, normal range, and status in Europe.

Texts average three-quarters of a page of relatively small print. When dealing with species which are inherently difficult to identify, or difficult to distinguish from commoner congeners, the texts include masterly summaries of all the most recently perceived or reported identification features. The amount of information provided is second-to-none and, indeed, raises a question over the concepts inherent in a *field* guide. The text on Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*, for example, is in excess of 1,100 words and is some 10% longer than that in *'Shorebirds'*, while (to no-one's great surprise, given one of the authors) the combined texts on Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (sic) [*Anthus novaeseelandiae*] and Blyth's Pipit *A. godlewskii* occupy four pages.

In only a very few instances do the texts fail to provide adequate treatment. Differentiation of the nominate North American race of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* from *C. c. bewickii* is oversimplified (in the field, the extent of yellow on the bill of a small number of *bewickii* can be deceptively small, close to that of an extreme *columbianus*); the discussion of 'Black Brant' *Branta bernicla nigricans* makes no mention of those from east Siberia (sometimes separated as *orientalis*), which can be less distinctive than American *nigricans*; the treatment of waterthrushes *Seiurus* is rather cursory; there is no mention of a grey-and-white variant of Varied Thrush *Zoothera naevia*, despite the only British and European record of this species involving an individual of this type. Generally, however, the texts are a mine of detailed information and constitute quite easily the most expert and comprehensive discussion of such a range of species yet published in a pocket guide.

The texts are admirably complemented by Ian Lewington's colour plates. Distinct juvenile, immature and adult (winter and summer) plumages are all illustrated and, where appropriate, species are depicted in flight as well as at rest. Jizz and plumage detail are first-rate, great attention having been given to feather detail while retaining a realistic and three-dimensional total image. There are up to ten illustrations per species (Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, the *Aquila* eagles, and Dusky/Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*), and up to 23 illustrations on each plate. This high density has generally been achieved successfully, but just occasionally has led to cramping and a slightly truncated appearance (e.g. the *Phylloscopus* warblers and some of the *Dendroica* warblers).

I found the illustrations of the herons, the wildfowl, and some of the thrushes particularly pleasing. Readers will no doubt find their own favourites, but the final 'postscript' plate—depicting five species and one putative (sub)species (Thayer's Gull *Larus glaucoides thayeri*) recorded only very recently in Britain & Ireland and not covered in the text—will no doubt be received very favourably. To criticise such a fine set of plates would be churlish, and I will merely 'note' that the wing-point of Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* is a little long, and that the illustration of Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* of the nominate race is a little too dark and contrasted for a classic individual, and looks more akin to an intergrade with *phoenicuroides*.

The book concludes with an appendix listing nomenclatural differences from Voous (the preference for treating *Phylloscopus (inornatus) humei* as a distinct species will please listers, the suggested lumping of *P. nitidus* and *P. plumbeitarsus* with *P. trochiloides* will not), and finally a comprehensive bibliography.

This guide will find a ready market among today's birders, and I cannot imagine anyone with a keen interest in rarities who will not wish to own it. Apart from the wealth of information, it is a tremendously exciting book to consult. The front cover depicts an American Robin *Turdus migratorius*, a White-winged Lark *Melanocorypha leucoptera* and a Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys*. Need I say more? A. R. DEAN

A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic. By Tim Parmenter & Clive Byers. Bruce Coleman Books, Uxbridge, 1991. 143 pages; 23 colour plates; 2 pages of black-and-white line-drawings; 52 black-and-white distribution maps. £21.00.

This book deals with the identification of 60 Old World warbler species that have been recorded in the Western Palearctic. The text style and the quality of the plates make it suitable for field identification; the title—*A Guide . . .*—might make a potential buyer think that it is also a guide for identification in the hand, but it is not.

The text is good, clear and easy to understand for identification to the species level; on more detailed aspects, however, such as plumage variation, plumage description and age determination, the text is short, lacking in detail and full of mistakes. The drawings and the text for Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*, for example, are contradictory: the colour of the legs is described as pale-brown, but illustrated as red (it should actually be dark reddish-brown); similarly, the base of the lower mandible is described as pale horn, whereas it is actually pale bluish-grey. These are just examples: the bare parts of many species are inaccurately or incorrectly described or illustrated in the text and plates. The information on moult is very poor. There are also some mistakes concerning plumage variation. For instance, the Sardinian Warbler text says: 'First year male similar to adult female, but greyer on crown, lores and ear-coverts.' Nothing is correct in this sentence, since the first-year male looks like the adult male except for a few differences in moult, iris colour and, to a minor degree, the general tone of the plumage.

The drawings are the surprise bonus. Clive Byers, by the evidence of this book, is one of the artists who has advanced very much in recent years. In my opinion, the drawings make this book the best one that includes all the Western Palearctic breeding warblers and the Asiatic vagrants. There are, however, two major problems: first, the structure of the birds is inaccurate in many cases (except for some species of *Sylvia* and *Phylloscopus*, which are well depicted), and, secondly, plumage variation (including that for different ages) is not shown.

The taxonomic (subspecies) approach to identification is very poor. For example, there is a lack of comparison between the southeastern race of Sardinian Warbler *S. m. momus* and Ménétries's Warbler *S. mystacea*, which is actually the only problem in separating these two species. In the text on Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* it is written that 'possibly nominate breed in Lebanon'; but *C. j. neurotica* breeds in Lebanon and, indeed, the type locality of the latter subspecies is Sidon (Saïda) in Lebanon.

The maps are quite good and give the necessary information. The book does, however, lack reference to work that has been published in the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, and even to important books such as *Birds of the Mediterranean and Alps* by Lars Jonsson (1980) and *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* by Alan Harris, Laurel Tucker & Keith Vinicombe (1989).

In summary, this is a good book, which I recommend: within its 140-or-so pages, it includes a great deal of information with good drawings. It forms part of a series of books (by various publishers) dealing with specific groups that started in the 1980s; but, so far, none of them has achieved the level of the first and leading one, *Gulls: a guide to identification* by Peter Grant (1982). HADORAM SHIRIHAI

Fieldwork action

BTO news

'Nesting' helps bird conservation If, during the course of the spring and early summer, you come across the odd nest in a hedgerow or even in your garden, recording what you see on a card we supply can help towards the understanding and the conservation of Britain's birds and their habitats. This is the essence of the BTO's easiest mass-participation project, the Nest Record Scheme.

The NRS is simplicity itself. We supply you with cards. Each time you find a nest, enter the details on the card, and visit the nest at regular intervals until the young fledge, each time noting details requested, such as the number of eggs or young, and whether the female is sitting, and so on. You are also asked questions about the nature and location of the nest.

Cards returned to BTO HQ are used to make comparisons between years, different areas of the country, and different habitats, for example. Since so many people send us information on birds' nests, we can say with some certainty if a particular species is having a particularly good—or bad—year. Even if you can find only one or two nests a year, because this is multiplied by so many people, you can make a really useful contribution.

The Nest Record Scheme feeds into our monitoring programme with other schemes to give an authoritative account of the state of Britain's birds. Write to Humphrey Crick at the BTO HQ and he will send you a free starter pack. Even if you can't participate, you can support the work of the BTO by joining as a member. Membership of the BTO starts at just £14, and in return we can offer you birding with a difference, and numerous ways to make your birding count towards conservation of our birds and their habitats.

PAUL GREEN

BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU



ICBP news

Racing for the steppes Next month there is the annual County Bird Race: a chance to test your birding skills, as well as raise money for top-priority conservation.

If you had taken part in the County Bird Race 200 years ago, and were competing in East Anglia, you would have had a reasonable chance of including on your list a species with one of the most extraordinary calls and spectacular displays in the world, the Great Bustard *Otis tarda*.

The last Great Bustard bred in Britain in 1832. Changes in agricultural practices meant that the English countryside no longer provided a suitable habitat for the species. Now, it is suffering a similar fate throughout its range. The ICBP, with the help of the County Bird Race and the British Birdwatching Fair, is working to save it in its last stronghold on the Spanish steppes (see last month's issue, page 139).

The Great Bustard has already disappeared from much of Europe, and is declining dramatically where it does still occur, in Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Hungary and the USSR. Data from China, Mongolia, Iraq and Syria are hard to come by, but declines have almost certainly taken place in those countries, too. In short, there is little doubt that this species is at risk of global extinction.

The Spanish steppes provide a last stronghold for this magnificent bird, with an estimated 13,500-14,000 individuals. The steppes are traditionally used for non-intensive cereal cultivation and sheep grazing, the large open cereal fields interspersed with fallow land and rough grassland providing an ideal habitat for the species. Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* and

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, also globally threatened species, and a number of declining or restricted-range species—such as Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*, and Black-bellied *Pterocles orientalis* and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *P. alchata*—also occur.

This habitat is now under threat. Since Spain joined the EC in 1986, the Government has been forced to reduce the subsidies paid to farmers working the land in the traditional, non-intensive manner. Large areas of steppe are faced with agricultural intensification, or with abandonment, leading to scrub encroachment. These threats are exacerbated by the Spanish Government's intention to use EC funding (known as 'Structural Funds') for irrigation schemes on the steppe-lands, thereby allowing cultivation of more profitable crops, such as strawberries, melons and cucumbers. These changes would be disastrous for the Great Bustard and the other steppe birds.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The ICBP, in conjunction with the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO) and the RSPB, is mounting an appeal to save the Spanish steppes, and the birds that rely on them. The appeal has two objectives. One is to raise money to purchase an area of steppe to be run as a reserve. The other is to campaign for the protection of the steppes, and the designation of five of the most important areas as 'Environmentally Sensitive Areas'. This designation means funds can be made available from the EC to subsidise the farming practices necessary for the birds' survival.

The campaign urgently needs your support. By taking part in the County Bird Race and raising sponsorship for your team, you will be helping. The Great Bustard will probably never breed in Britain again, but, if it survives, maybe one day you will be lucky enough to see it strutting proudly across the grasslands of Spain.

If you have not already entered the County Bird Race, write for details to Mike Parr at the address below.

GEORGINA GREEN

International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Announcements

With 'BB' to Israel After the very successful exploratory trip in 1991 (*Brit. Birds* 85: 127-129), *BB* subscribers now have a second chance to join Hadoram Shirihai watching raptor migration, searching for migrants and cruising on the Red Sea looking at seabirds. The trip will again be run by Sunbird, and will this year be led jointly by Killian Mullarney. The dates are 9th-23rd September 1992 and there are still a few places left. For full details write or phone to Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; Sandy (0767) 682969.

Books in British BirdShop This month there are special prepublication offers on *The Birds of Africa* vol. 4, and on vol. 1 of the new mammoth work *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Five other books have been added to the list.

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xi & xii.

Rarities Committee: new member As previously announced (*Brit. Birds* 84: 290-291), a vacancy arose on the Rarities Committee* from 1st April 1992. Three nominations were received by the closing date of 31st December 1991. In consequence, a postal vote has been conducted, each county/regional bird recorder and bird observatory voting using a 3-2-1 points system. The candidates, and votes cast by the closing date of 15th February, were as follows:

Peter Combridge (Southampton, Hampshire)	77
Dave Flumm (Sennen, Cornwall)	104
Grahame Walbridge (Portland, Dorset)	149

The new member elected to serve from 1st April is, therefore, Grahame Walbridge.

*The Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss—Germany*

Request

Photographs of King Eiders For a forthcoming paper in *British Birds*, by Pete Ellis, Dave Suddaby and Ken Shaw, photographs are required of King Eiders *Somateria spectabilis*, particularly of females and non-adult males. All photographs will be acknowledged on receipt by letter and also in the paper. Please send prints or transparencies to Ken Shaw, 4 Headland Court, Newtonhill, near Stonehaven, Kincardine AB3 2SF.

Mystery photographs

This regular feature is held over to next month, when the identity of the bird in plates 52 & 53 will be revealed and a new identification problem posed.

Seventy-five years ago...

'The note uttered by these Northern Willow-Wrens was distinctly shriller than that of our resident bird. It seems remarkable that there should be a clear distinction between the call-notes of *Ph. t. trochilus* and *Ph. t. eversmanni*, as well as between *Ph. c. collybita* and *Ph. c. tristis*, although the call-notes of our resident Chiff-chaff and Willow-Wren are, as far as I can judge, absolutely identical, though I understand that some ornithologists have been able to distinguish them . . . H. G. ALEXANDER.' (*Brit. Birds* 10: 265, April 1917).

News and comment

Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

EC Habitats Directive European wildlife conservationists saw December 1991 as a month to remember. After years of wrangling, European Community Environment Ministers at last agreed to adopt the long-awaited EC Habitats Directive, a move which was widely heralded as the most important breakthrough for a decade. The UK Government was quick to pledge itself to effective implementation of the Directive; let us hope they really mean it. This country's record in honouring its international obligations in respect of Ramsar sites and Special Protection Areas has all too often been likened to the famous curate's egg; official attitudes towards safeguarding Sites of Special Scientific Interest have sometimes lacked real commitment and, at times, have been positively cavalier. The Directive presents our elected representatives (whoever they turn out to be) with an opportunity to show that they *do* care. The next decade will reveal the truth, one way or the other.

The Curate's Egg Many readers, like the compilers of this feature, must have wondered from time to time about the origin of this well-known quasi-ornithological expression. The source is a *Punch* cartoon of 1895, showing a nervous young curate at breakfast with a bishop. The caption has the Right Reverend Host remarking to the curate 'I'm afraid you've got a bad egg, Mr Jones!'—and the curate replying 'Oh no, my lord, I assure you! Parts of it are excellent!'

England's largest NNR In December 1991, by leasing the foreshore and river channel from the Duchy of Lancaster and purchasing two areas of saltmarsh grazing on Hesketh and Becconsall Out Marsh, English Nature increased the size of the Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve to over 4,000 ha. These welcome moves make it the largest NNR in England and come at a time when most of our internationally important estuaries are under increasing pressure. Up to 100,000 waders, including 60,000 Knots

Calidris canutus and 15,000 Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa lapponica*, arrive on the Ribble in early autumn. Many remain for the winter, regularly including 12% of the world's Knots and 11% of the Bartails.

Two important SPAs The EC Birds Directive (which will run in tandem with the new Habitats Directive) promotes the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds. December 1991 saw the addition of two important English sites to the SPA list, bringing the UK total to 43 (covering 137,000 ha). These were Abberton Reservoir, Essex, which supports up to 34,000 winter wildfowl, and Walmore Common, Gloucestershire, which is important for Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus*. Walmore Common was also designated a 'Wetland of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat' under the Ramsar Convention, making it the 51st UK Ramsar site.

Young Ornithologists of the Year The three winners (see announcement on page 44) received their awards and prizes from the RSPB's Chief Executive, Barbara Young, at a special ceremony at The Lodge on 2nd January. All three had been complimented by the judges on the excellent notes in their field notebooks (plate 95).

Hungarian owls project Late last year, we were pleased to get a letter from our friends in the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society about the Zemplen Hills Owl Project. The project is aimed at finding out more about this important area's declining numbers of Eagle Owls *Bubo bubo* and Ural Owls *Strix uralensis*. The Society would welcome support, comments, advice and, if possible, donations. For more information, write to either Gerard Gorman (Project Co-ordinator) or Gábor Firmanszky (Project Leader) at Magyar Madártani és Természetvédelmi Egyesület, 1121 Budapest, Költó u.21, Hungary.

John Dony (1899-1991) We were very sad to learn recently of the death on 24th March last year of Dr John Dony. Although an historian by training and an eminent botanist by profession and inclination, he was a good friend to ornithologists, and co-operated with, advised on and helped to obtain funding for several projects on birds, especially in his native Bedfordshire. We shall always remember his friendship and his youthful enthusiasm, which made him such an exciting field companion, even in his eighties and nineties. (*JTRS*)

95. YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS OF THE YEAR. Left to right: junior winner, Kirsty Hughes; intermediate winner, Anna Evans; and senior winner, David Anning: Bedfordshire, January 1992 (*Chris Sargeant/RSPB*)



Andorra Atlas The Associació per a la Defensa de la Natura (ADN) is starting work on a 1-km square atlas of the breeding birds of Andorra. Fieldwork begins at the start of May on lower altitudes, continuing until mid July higher up. Help from knowledgeable birders visiting or passing through the area, and who might be free for even just a few days, would be most welcome. ADN cannot pay expenses, but could almost certainly find free bed and breakfast accommodation with some of their members. For more details, write, as soon as possible, to J. Crozier, Cortal de la Solana, Anyos, La Massana, Principat d'Andorra (tel. 033-628-35931).

Private trips in Israel Hadoram Shirihai, main author of this month's major paper, has asked us to mention that anyone wishing to avail themselves of a private guided tour involving raptor migration, identification or photography in the Eilat area or in the Negev should contact him at PO Box 4168, Eilat 88102, Israel (telephone 010-9727-376404; fax 375669).

Hong Kong 1990 *The Hong Kong Bird Report 1990*, 212 pages long, includes not only the usual systematic list of birds recorded there during the year, but also accounts of no fewer than ten species new to Hong Kong (three with colour plates subsidised by *Nikon*) and a paper by A. C. Galsworthy on 'Separation of first-winter Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler [*Locustella certhiola*] from Lanceolated Warbler [*L. lanceolata*)', with four colour plates (subsidised by *Zeiss*). The *Report* is available, price £8.50 incl. p&p, from Sebastian Anstruther, Barlavington Estate, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0LG, or for HK$110 (surface mail) from the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society, PO Box 12460, GPO, Hong Kong.

Local avifaunas Our comments on the relative scarcity of local avifaunas (*Brit. Birds* 84: 592) drew rapid responses from two areas, drawing our attention to a couple of very worthwhile but possibly little-known publications. The first of these is *The Birds of Selsey Bill*, compiled by Owen Mitchell and available from him (price £3.00 including p&p) at 21 Trundle View Close, Barnham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 0JZ. The other is *The Birds of Great Yarmouth* by Peter Allard, published by the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society in conjunction with David Ferrow, and available from the Society (price £8.00 including p&p) via D. A. Dorling, St Edmundsbury, New Road, Hethersett, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 3HH.

Northumbrian Birdwatchers' Festival Take a large lake and sprinkle it with an assortment of wildfowl; take a large grassy area and garnish it with marquees; take a purpose-built Visitor Centre and mix it with information, refreshments, and a warm welcome, and top it all off with that well-known personality, Tony Soper, to open the event and give generously of his time over the weekend, and you have the ingredients for the First Northumbrian Birdwatchers' Festival. This event, which took place at the Druridge Bay Country Park over the weekend of 23rd/24th November, was organised jointly by the Northumberland National Park & Countryside Department and the northeast office of the RSPB, and was generously sponsored by British Coal Opencast on one of whose original opencast sites the Country Park now stands.

Over the course of the weekend, well over 5,000 people visited the Festival and were able to try out a selection of optical equipment, partake of guided walks along the Bay, watch videos and learn about bird-ringing. Entertainment for the children was not forgotten either. There was no lack of things on which to spend your money: paintings, books, wildlife sound recordings, bird food, pottery, even wildlife holidays, and a wide variety of gifts as suitable Christmas presents. But numerous prize draws meant you also had the opportunity to win something as well. The BTO was well represented, as were both the regional office and local members' group of the RSPB, along with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust; indeed, many people felt that the local flavour of the event added to its undoubted success. This flavour was much enhanced by the refreshments put on by the local Broomhill Women's Institute. Finally, thanks should be given to the weather men for arranging a fine if crisp weekend. Can *you* afford not to be there next year? (*Contributed by Wendy Dickson*)

December Swanwick The BTO Annual Birdwatchers' Conference 1991 was entitled 'Raptors in Britain' and attracted a very full house over 6th-8th December at Swanwick in Derbyshire.

On the Friday evening, Don Smith gave

us the concept of owls as flying cats, and advised us to avoid Ural Owls *Strix uralensis* unless accompanied by a good command of Swedish.

Richard Howard, President of the BTO, formally opened the Conference on Saturday morning. Ian Newton outlined the evidence for natural regulation of the breeding density of raptors, described some unnatural control factors, and concluded that most raptors could occur over much wider ranges and at higher densities. Peter Hudson focused on one raptor prey item: the Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*, the effects of raptors being seriously negative only when Red Grouse populations are low for other reasons. The Witherby Memorial Lecture by John Goss-Custard covered the importance of scale in the study of bird populations.

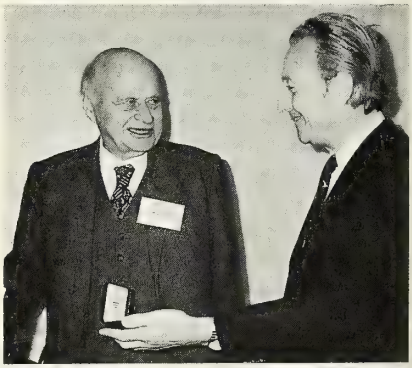
After lunch, a wide variety of workshops was available, the alternatives being a bird-watching trip with the Derbyshire Ornithological Society or informal chats. Later, Roger Clarke told us about Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* winter-roost surveys, Will Cresswell discussed studies of raptor predation on wintering waders on a site in East Lothian, and Geoff Horne gave an account of some of the more dangerous aspects of monitoring the recovery of the Lakeland population of Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, with his exploits at the end of a rope documented by spectacular photographs.

After dinner, the membership was delighted to welcome Max Nicholson, who was awarded the Founder's Medal (plate 96). He regaled us with stories of the early days of the BTO and those involved in establishing both Beech Grove and The Lodge. The audience gave him a spontaneous standing ovation. Awards of the Jubilee Medal to Tony Norris and Bruce Campbell were celebrated in their absence, and Mike Shrubb's work was amusingly described by Tony Marr and recognised by the award of the Tucker Medal (plate 97).

On Sunday morning, Humphrey Crick revealed the latest (though still incomplete) information from the Peregrine survey, with the 1991 population at around 147% of the 1939 level. Recovery and spread is mainly in the south and east, with populations in the Northern and Western Isles decreasing. David Garner expanded on the provision of artificial nests (wicker baskets) for Long-eared Owls *Asio otus*, described and illustrated by him nine years ago in *British Birds* (75: 376-377, plate 140). Mike Shrubb's studies of Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus* showed how nest-site preferences have changed over the years. Paul Johnson's talk on Barn Owls *Tyto alba* in Norfolk was greatly enhanced by the full-colour graphic slides produced for him by Philip Burton.

The final session included Roy Dennis on the threats to and prospects for Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* and Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus*, followed by Mike Pienkowski on 'Kite flying for beginners': not only did he tell us about the Red Kite *Milvus milvus* reintroduction scheme, but also gave details of how other possible reintroductions should be evaluated and monitored.

The 'fringe events' were as excellent as usual, and the art exhibition organised by Robert Gillmor was always busy. There were no fewer than four competitions: two audio competitions arranged by Keith Betton, a



96. E. M. Nicholson CB (left) receiving Founder's Medal from BTO President, Richard Howard, Derbyshire, December 1991 (*Gordon Langsbury*)

97. Mike Shrubb (right) receiving Tucker Medal from Tony Marr, Derbyshire, December 1991 (*Gordon Langsbury*)



general one and another, much more difficult, on raptor calls; Alan Knox's 'Grizzly Competition', which, as usual, provided an exciting and interesting challenge, was won by David Jardine, with a score of 27 out of 30; and our own *BB* mystery photographs competition, which attracted 115 entries, of which three, John Marchant, Bob Scott and Tim Inskipp, got all five identities correct; John Marchant was the lucky winner of the bottle of champagne. (*Contributed by Eve Tigwell*)

BTO boob If you do not already know the link between Kylie Minogue and *Lada* cars, ask anyone who attended the BTO's December conference at Swanwick. (P.S. Don't ask if you yourself own a *Lada* car.)

Congratulations! We recently recorded Jeremy Sorensen's retirement (*Brit. Birds* 85: 52). The genial, splendidly eccentric and universally liked former RSPB warden, who enlivened visits to the Ouse Washes and Minsmere for so many of us, received the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. Well done!

'Seventy-five years ago . . .' As noted by a recent correspondent, this feature 'seems to be the only part of "BB" which has not yet been filched by your look-alike imitators.' Doubtless they'll get around to it, in time . . .

More new species Mike Rogers tells us that 'Fedral Rock Dove' (best pronounced, he says, with a Cornish accent) is now in common usage in Cornwall following the misprint in the 1990 *Birds in Cornwall*. For tunately, the BB Rarities Committee spotted Greenwich Warbler in the proofs of its report before that name, too, burst on an unsuspecting public. Numerous people wrote to us about Press reports of the Surf Scooter in North Devon: a predictable one, this, but no mere misprint, as is shown by the *Western Morning News* headline 'Twitchers Scoot'. Our favourites this month, though, were spotted by Peter Wilkinson in a Massachusetts paper, the *Boston Sunday Globe*. 'Marble Godwit' is a classic (related to the Stone Curlew, possibly?), while 'Thick Thistle' is New England rhyming slang of the very highest order!

Isle of Wight records Regrettably, there are two organisations collecting records for the Isle of Wight. We gave only one address in the January issue (page 28). The two addresses are:

Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society Swiss Chalet, Rylstone Gardens, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6RG

Isle of Wight Ornithological Group c/o Pictou, Church Street, Niton, Isle of Wight PO38 2BX

County and regional recorders The following amendment should be made to the list of 'County, regional and bird observatory recorders in Britain and Ireland' (*Brit. Birds* 85: 28-30): all Northern Ireland records should be sent to George W. Gordon, Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association, 2 Brooklyn Avenue, Bangor, Co. Down, Northern Ireland BT20 5RB.

Sponsored by



Monthly marathon

This issue went to press before the closing date for the receipt of entries relating to the January photograph (plate 9). The answer will be revealed in the May issue.

The next problem picture is shown in plate 98 (which is either the twenty-first stage in the fifth 'Monthly marathon' or the first or second stage in the sixth competition). The prize to be won is a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday in Africa, Asia or North America.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



98. 'Monthly marathon' (photograph number 70). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th May 1992

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 14th February to 12th March 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* From Rousay Ferry (Orkney), 14th February.
Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* Isle of Sheppey (Kent), 24th February to 8th March; Titchfield Haven (Hampshire), 20th February to 8th March (suspect origin).
American Wigeon *Anas americana* Male, Ballintubrid (Co. Cork), up to 7th March.
Garganey *Anas querquedula* Hornsea Mere (Humberside), 16th-23rd February; Pagham Harbour (West Sussex), 29th February.
Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* Wintering male moved to Hillsborough Lake (Co. Down), 1st March.
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* Gouthwaite Reservoir (North Yorkshire), from at least early February to 8th March.
Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* Grey-phase, Mangaster Voe, Mainland (Shetland), 17th February; Dungeness (Kent) individual moved to Romney March until 19th February, then Isle of Sheppey from 23rd-29th February; white-phase, Fetlar (Shetland), 22nd February; white-phase, Myroe, Lough Foyle (Co. Londonderry), 23rd February.
Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* Fowey Estuary (Cornwall), 8th March.
Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* Presumed first-winter female, Achill Island (Co. Mayo), 19th February.
Alpine Swift *Apus melba* New Brighton (Merseyside), 6th March.
Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Slapton Ley (Devon), 29th February to 6th March.
Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Skomer Island (Dyfed), 11th March.
Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 16th February; Fetlar, 19th February.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888-111
(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature.

St. Anns Books

Rectory House, 26 Priory Road,
Great Malvern, Worcestershire. WR14 3DR
Tel: 0684 - 562818 Fax: 0684 - 566491



We are international mail-order specialists dealing **Exclusively** in **Bird Books**, with an ever-changing stock of approximately 2000 **Secondhand** titles always available, including **Rare** and **Desirable** items. We also stock 800 **New** titles

Efficient, Friendly Service • Prompt Despatch • Expert Packing

Catalogues are regularly issued, and are **Free** on request

Being fully computorised, we would be pleased to record your *"Wants"*. We would then quote you (without obligation) when copies became available.

(D991)



THE ALL NEW INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE

RARE BIRD NEWS
0881 888 111

THE CHEAPEST & BEST VALUE BIRDLINE
CALLS COST 25p/MINUTE CHEAP RATE

RING US AND SAVE £££'s

WHY PAY MORE ON HIGHER PREMIUM RATES?

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS ON LOCAL RATES
FROM ANYWHERE IN THE U.K. 0426 923 923

JOIN OUR NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF NEWS PROVIDERS

RARE BIRD NEWS IS HELPING CONSERVATION

ENQUIRIES: BIRDING U.K. 146 KEW ROAD, RICHMOND, LONDON TW9 2AU
CALLS TO 0881 NO'S CHARGED AT 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES INC. VAT

(D100)

TWICKERS
WORLD
The natural world

HOLIDAYS FOR THE ADVENTURER

Iceland: A choice of walking, trekking, horse riding and white water rafting. Regular 1, 2 & 3 week departures. Prices from £665.

Sumatra, Nias & Siberut: Explore by canoe & on foot forests and ancient cultures. Departs 26 June, 24 days £1750.

22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW
Telephone 081-892 8164
24 hour brochure service 081-892 7851
Fax 081-892 8061 ABTA No 60340 (D990)



Essential reading

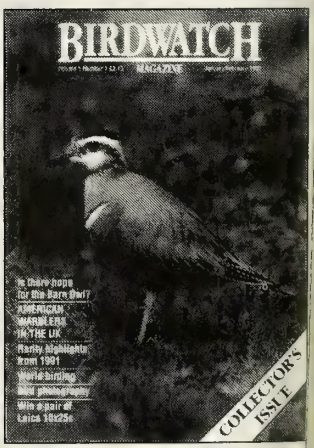
Have you seen BIRDWATCH, Britain's widely-acclaimed new birding magazine? Published bi-monthly from January 1992, each issue features a wide range of articles with superb colour and black-and-white photos and illustrations in a stylish A4 format.

Issue 1 Barn Owl conservation - sea duck - bird observatories - vagrant American warblers - Jamaican birds - the first 1991 UK rarity photo report - Bulgaria - photography - sound recording

Issue 2 Birding the Western Isles - passage of Little Gulls in NW England - Great Bustards and grasslands - hunting in Britain - Ibisbills at the nest - birding days to remember - photo gallery - photography with scopes

Plus world trip report, 'local patch' feature, conservation and birding news, competitions, letters, book reviews and birding gossip

Subscribe today to guarantee your copy and join thousands of birders in over 30 countries world-wide.



SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Name
Address
.....
..... Postcode

Individuals (UK)	£12.90
Organisations (UK)	£18.00
Europe & surface mail	£19.20
Air mail (outside Europe)	£44.90

I enclose a cheque/eurocheque/sterling draft/PO for £ payable to Solo Publishing Ltd

RETURN FORM TODAY TO: Subscription Dept, Solo Publishing Ltd, P O Box 1786, London E17 7JG

(D987)

Sunbird take more birdwatchers to Israel than any other bird tour company.



For details of these and all our other tours, please write for your free brochure to Sunbird, P.O. Box 76, Sandy, Beds, SG19 1DF.

Sunbird

The best of birdwatching tours

(D998)

FOCALPOINT VISA

The binocular and telescope specialists
Run by birders for birders

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS
(10.30am–4pm)

Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre, Washington, Tyne & Wear
Sunday 12th April (District 15)

Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre, Martin Mere, Lancashire
Sunday 26th April (M6, Jct 27)

SALTHOUSE, Cley, Norfolk
BIRDWATCHERS WEEKEND Sat 2nd, Sun 3rd & Mon 4th May.
Binoculars, Telescopes, Books, Art and Clothing.
We shall be overlooking 'The Duck Pond'

CHURCH STRETTON, Shropshire, Sun 10th May
ORNITHOLOGISTS OPEN DAY at 'WESTHOLME',
Hazler Road, Church Stretton.
Binocs, 'scopes, books and art with a special feature on 'Merlin' ventile clothing — the birder's choice.

BROWNHILL VISITOR CENTRE, Dobcross, nr Oldham, Gtr Manchester. Sunday 17th May. O.S. SD995063

SALTHOUSE, Cley, Norfolk.
BIRDWATCHERS WEEKEND. Sat 23rd, Sun 24th & Mon 25th May.
Binoculars, Telescopes, Books, Art and Clothing.
We shall be overlooking 'The Duck Pond'

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 (D992)

New Books From
T & A D POYSER



THE ANCIENT MURRELET

A Natural History in the Queen Charlotte Islands

Anthony J. Gaston

Breeding along the northern Pacific coast from British Columbia to Japan, this little known bird dwelt in obscurity until it became the focus of a conservation debate which has resulted in a new National Park in the Queen Charlotte Islands where half the world's population breeds. This is a seabird that breeds in burrows, sings in treetops and rears its young entirely at sea.
Truly an extraordinary subject for a species monograph.

February 1992, £17.00
c.200 pages, ISBN: 0.85661.070.4

Available from all good booksellers or from:

T & A D POYSER
24-28 Oval Road
London NW1 7DX
Telephone: 071-267-4466 (D103)

BIRDNET LTD
GRIP DONT DIP

A 5* Service for £30 per year

- **MEGANET** – All the cripplers networked to you as soon as the news breaks.
- **INFOLINE** – Manned telephone lines so you get straight to the information you require.
- **ANSWERLINE** – Out of hours answering machines give a review of the day's birds.
- **BONUSLINE** – We will pay for your rare bird information Phone: 0298 73052
- **CLUB DISCOUNTS** – A variety of discounted goods and services will be offered to club members.

PAGER OFFER
As a dealer for MERCURY PAGERS BIRDNET can offer a range of pagers giving national coverage, with prices from as little as £13 per month.

Mercury COMMUNICATIONS

NON-MEMBERS can phone for the latest rare bird information on:
0839-007-712 ask for extension 3162.

On this number calls are charged at 36 pence per minute cheap rate and 48 pence per minute at all other times.

For further information write to:
BIRDNET LTD, OAKLANDS MANOR, LONG HILL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE SK17 6ST or phone: 0298 73054 or fax: 0298 73053

(D997)

Topical, lively and informative

BIRDING WORLD



invites you to experience the magic of birds...

**Enjoy our unique blend of articles,
tailored to today's birdwatchers; everything from practical identification guides, clear and concise in style and lavishly illustrated,
bird-finding tips, evocative photo-essays,
and gripping accounts of all the current rarities through to
birding hotspots, mouth-watering excursions abroad,
monthly British and Western Palearctic news summaries,
a myriad of special features,
all our regular items including big-prize quizbirds,
and much, much more...**

New for 1992, the bigger and even better Birding World is 50% larger, 100% more colour

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (12 issues) UK £2
OVERSEAS £31, AIRMAIL outside Europe £5
Special introductory offe
(6 months trial) UK £12.50, OVERSEAS £15.5
Cheque to Birding World (Sterling only
To: **Birding World, Stonerunner, Coast Roa
Cley, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7R**

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Postcode Tel.....

(D974)

SEYCHELLES

A Birdwatchers' Guide to Seychelles

MOROCCO

A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco

NEPAL

A Birdwatchers' Guide to Nepal

BIRD WATCHERS' GUIDES

Prion Ltd
Perry, PE18 0DJ

£8.75 each from bookshops or NHBS Totnes TQ9 5XN
(0803) 865913

(D996)

Classified Advertisements
All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB530)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB793)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB097)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB065)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB098)

GARA MILL. Slapton, Devon. Self-catering for 2-7 in secluded four acres overlooking river and woods. Eight detached cedar lodges plus 2 CH flats in 16th c. cornmill. Near Slapton Ley. TVs. Dogs welcome. Free brochure: (0803) 770295. (BB987)

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Clev 5 miles: Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390



(BB963)

FULLY EQUIPPED HOLIDAY FLAT in private house, suitable for married couple. Borders of Bournemouth/Christchurch, convenient for shops and buses, 7 minutes by car to sea, and 15 minutes to Bournemouth centre. Terms from £80 weekly. 23 Exton Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5QF. (BB047)

EXMOOR. Peaceful s/catering c/heated holiday homes in National Trust Village. Marshes, woods and moorland—rich in birdlife. Reduced spring/autumn terms. Open all year. Resident Proprietors, Pack Horse, Allerford, nr Minehead. Tel: 0643 862475. (BB026)

N. W. NORFOLK COAST – Snettisham. Two warm and pretty cottages (Tourist Board 'Commended' – 4 key). Sleeps 4. Ideally situated close to major bird reserves. Averil Campbell. Tel. 0485 541179. (BB938)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB766)

SCOTLAND

ALL OVER SCOTLAND. Comfortable cottages and chalets in attractive locations throughout Scotland. Stamp please for free 84-page colour brochure. Holiday Cottages (Scotland) Ltd, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9JD. Tel: 08357 481. (BB936)

STRATHSPEY SELF CATERING. 1 crown to 5 crowns highly commended. Colour brochure from S.S.C., Ballingtomb Cottages, Dulnain Bridge PH26 3LS. Tel. 047 985 322. (BB937)

BOAT OF GARTEN, OLD FERRYMAN'S HOUSE. BB £13.50, DBB £22, PL £3, Bird register. Open fire in sitting room. Few minutes walk to RSPB reserve. Tel: 047983 370. (BB112)

ISLAY, GEESE. Warm cottages sleep 8, 7 or 2. Lady Wilson, Cala na Ruadh, Port Charlotte. Tel: 289 (BB943)

GALLOWAY. Country cottage, sleeps 4. Midway Glen Trool/coast. 0858 880709. (BB041)

ISLE OF MULL. A stable converted into two warm, comfortable flats. Frachadil Farm, Calgary. Tel: 068 84 265 or (0453) 833323. (BB037)

ISLE OF GIGHA, Argyllshire. For a holiday surrounded by natural beauty, sandy beaches, exotic gardens, birds, wild flowers, good food and comfortable accommodation. Also self catering accommodation. Please contact Mrs. McSporran, Post Office House 058-35 251. (BB036)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £48.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB965)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB067)

GALLOWAY. Hills, lochs, forests and sea. Speciality, birds of prey and waterfowl. High quality self-catering houses, cottages, flats. Details G. M. Thomson & Co, 27 King Street, Castle Douglas. 0556 2973. (BB964)

ISLE OF ISLAY, HEBRIDES. Five superbly equipped cottages, open throughout year. Perfect situation with views, minutes to charming village. Short drive to RSPB reserve at Gruinart. Brochure: Mrs Sarah Roy, Lorgba Holiday Cottage, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll. Tel: 049 685/208. (BB999)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503. (BB089)

ELLARY ESTATE—MOST ATTRACTIVE choice of self-catering cottages and chalets situated on the shores of Loch Caolisport. While you are at Ellary you are free to go wherever you please. There are hill walks, many lochs and burns where you can fish, numerous wildlife, birds, flowers, etc. The perfect location for the true country lover. For full colour brochure please write to: The Booking Office, Ellary 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PA. Tel: 08803 232/209 or 054685 223. (BB983)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

ORKNEY ISLES; Glen, Rackwick, Isle of Hoy. Small hill farm adjacent to RSPB Reserve, ornithologist's paradise; sea birds, moorland, meadow, birds of prey. Bed and breakfast. 1 double, 1 twin; evening meal optional. Special rate for 3 days. DBB £45 per person. Also well equipped self-catering chalet and small cottage. Tel: Rendall 0856 79262. (BB039)

SPEY VALLEY. Maureen and Larry once again invite guests to sample their highland hospitality. Set in five acres, our home has uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. Bird register available. Good home cooking and a warm welcome await you. D/B/B £130 p.w. (All rooms en-suite). Brochure: Maureen Taulbut, "Braes of Duthil', Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3ND. 047984 395. (BB138)

WALES

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest-House standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB083)

PRESILI, WEST WALES. Cottage available most dates April-September. 2-4 persons. Suit bird watchers, walkers. All amenities close (0222) 615176. (BB120)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB135)

OVERSEAS

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB051)

CAMARGUE—TOWN HOUSE. Sleeps 10. £150-£250 pw (0624) 676151 Fx 662787. (BB122)

S. E. SPAIN – comfortable house, convenient major wetlands/beach. All mod cons. Sleeps 3/4. Bird list and details. Tel: 0233 628547. (BB134)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

WildWings

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£79
M. EAST	£139
CARIBBEAN	£349
C. & S. AMERICA	£365
AFRICA	£99
N. AMERICA	£159
ASIA	£299
AUS/NZ	£549

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTICA & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2900. pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU MON. - FRI.
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757

ABTA 65077

(BB121)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May – variety of accommodation – trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB137)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 100B SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

ERYRI BIRDS



Come birdwatching with us in 1992

S. SPAIN	– MAY & SEPTEMBER
N. GREECE	– MAY & SEPTEMBER
E. AUSTRIA	– MAY/JUNE

Informal small group holidays with experienced guides

Send for a brochure to:
Colin Thomas,
24 Tan-y-Bwlch Rd, Llanllechid,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
Tel: (0248) 600167

(BB090)

BIRDS OF SPEYSIDE: A week of crossbills, crested tits, ospreys and lots more; small group with very experienced leader. Also departures to ISLAY, OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND. Write to: Natureguide (Caledonia), Shiresmill, Dunfermline KY12 8ER. (BB050)

Flamingo Holidays

TAKING BIRDWATCHERS TO EUROPE AND BEYOND

SIBERIA • NEPAL • THE GAMBIA
MALLORCA • CAMARGUE
EGYPT • DANUBE DELTA • ICELAND

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS IN SMALL GROUPS WITH EXPERT LEADERS

FREE BROCHURE, PHONE OR WRITE TO:

0532 586555 (24 Hour)
59 HUNGER HILLS DRIVE, LEEDS LS18 5JU

(BB085)

JUST FLIGHTS

DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL

ABTA 97237

100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS

'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'

EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)

ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB133)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

BIRDWATCHING ADVICE LINE

'PLANNING A BIRDWATCHING TRIP ABROAD'

Thomas Cook Travel

OFFER YOU A TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS LINE: 02572 62317

Ask for Keith Hiller experienced Birdwatcher.

Details available include: * Worldwide Airfares * Car Hire * Package Holidays * Ferries * Overseas Rail * Visas * Health * Accommodation * Cruises * Foreign Money * Individuals or groups catered for.

ABTA number 29600 (BB117)

SITUATIONS VACANT

KILCOLMAN WILDFOWL REFUGE. Assistant required for approx six months from Autumn, 1992. Accommodation provided plus small remuneration. Apply in writing with current CV and references to Mrs Margaret Ridgway, Kilcolman Wildfowl Refuge, Buttevant, Co. Cork. (BB139)

APPLICATIONS INVITED: EDITOR to assist with revising and updating a manuscript on cormorant behaviour (750 typewritten pages). Should be familiar with Tinbergian ethology. Work is not urgent. Dr Adrian Kortlandt, 88 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7ND, phone 0865 515602. (BB136)

BIRD INFORMATION

PHONE-LINES

Latest rare bird news:

0881-888-111

(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times)

Latest Rarities Committee* decisions:

0891-884-522

(36p/min cheap rate; 48p/min other times)

* The Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss – Germany* (BB931)

ALL THE RARE BIRD NEWS AS SOON AS IT BREAKS!

paged directly to the screen of your pocket pager . . . Nationwide

RARE BIRD ALERT

details **TEL: FREE! 0800 246 246**

(BB972)

COURSES

SKOKHOLM ISLAND, off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art, Birdwatching, Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Send SAE to Dept BB, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF. Tel: (0437) 765462. (BB032)

PERSONAL

RUSSIAN SPEAKING ENGLISH BIRDER seeks birding companion for bird trips in Russia, Siberia, Caucasus. Winter '92-Summer '93. Contact: K. Turner, 240 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1UU. (BB038)

BOOKS

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB917)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE envelope to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel. 0433 630137. (BB109)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request

Tel: 0352 770881

Fax: 0352 771890

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

SUBBUTEO NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd,North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

BIRD BOOKS, 1988-1989. SAE for 900 item catalogue. Crack Books, Sawmill Cottages, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, Lancs. (BB046)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria. CA10 3JP (Tel. 09315-282). (BB066)

BIRDWATCHING IN CRETE 2nd Ed. £3.75 inc. p&p. Stephanie Coghlan, 25 Thorpe Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD5 8TA. (BB099)

JUST IN! NEW NAT; LARKS, PIPITS & WAGTAILS. £30 post free. Cat. new/secondhand books avail. Books bought. West Coast Bird books, 25 Heatherways, Freshfield, Liverpool L37 7HL. Tel: 07048 71115. (BB096)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407
(BB116)

BIRDERS GUIDES to Turkey, Israel, Sweden, Finland and Majorca, detailed, up to date (1991), superb maps. £3 each + 50p p/p. From Gostours, 29 Marchwood Road, Sheffield S6 5LB. Tel: (0742) 334171. (BB140)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:
Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP
(BB053)

NAT, HISTORY BOOK FAIR. Sat. 25th April. RSPB Reserve, Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancs. Make it a day & enjoy superb birdwatching. (BB141)

FOR SALE

BRITISH BIRDS VOCABULARY 12-cassette series in 6 vols. Also Sound Guides and other productions. SAE to Lewis, Rosehill, Lyonshall. HR5 3HS. (BB049)

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB921)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS
Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845
(BB040)

Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.
The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre
Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.
T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB042)

BRITISH BIRDS. Bound volumes 77-82 (1984-89) £95 or £17 per volume. Telephone (Bradford) 0274 871074 (evenings). (BB118)

RED DATA BIRDS IN BRITAIN. Original line drawings £25 to £75. Ian Willis, 20 Albert Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4JP. Tel: 0556 611158. (BB045)

TRIPOD TAMER 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. post from: Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB123)

WALKERS
Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods
*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * TASCO**

OUR PRICES ARE TOO LOW TO PRINT

ZEISS & LEITZ increased their prices in March but we still have some stock at old prices
SWIFT & KOWA increase 1st April

BUY NOW!!

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334
(D993)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 4 April 1992

141 **Raptor migration at Eilat** *Hadoram Shirihai and David A. Christie*

Notes

186 Griffon Vulture drowning at sea *Kenneth Bengtsson and Erik Hirschfeld*
186 One Hen Harrier nestling feeding another *Richard T. Mills*
187 Buzzard with live common eel *Graham Madge*
188 Kestrel apparently robbing Short-eared Owl *Greg Scott*
188 Kestrel preying on House Martin nest *S. K. Woolley*
188 Non-aggressive behaviour of Peregrine *L. Fairman and R. H. Harvey*
189 Robin 'anting' with millipede *B. Harrup*

Letter

189 Priorities for conservationists *Simon Albrecht*

Reviews

190 'A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe' by Per Alström & Peter Colston, illustrated by Ian Lewington *A. R. Dean*
192 'A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic' by Tim Parmenter & Clive Byers *Hadoram Shirihai*

193 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

193 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

Announcements

194 With 'BB' to Israel
194 Books in British BirdShop
194 Rarities Committee: new member

Request

195 Photographs of King Eiders *Ken Shaw*

195 **Mystery photographs**

195 Seventy-five years ago . . .

195 **News and comment** *Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch*

199 **Monthly marathon**

200 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

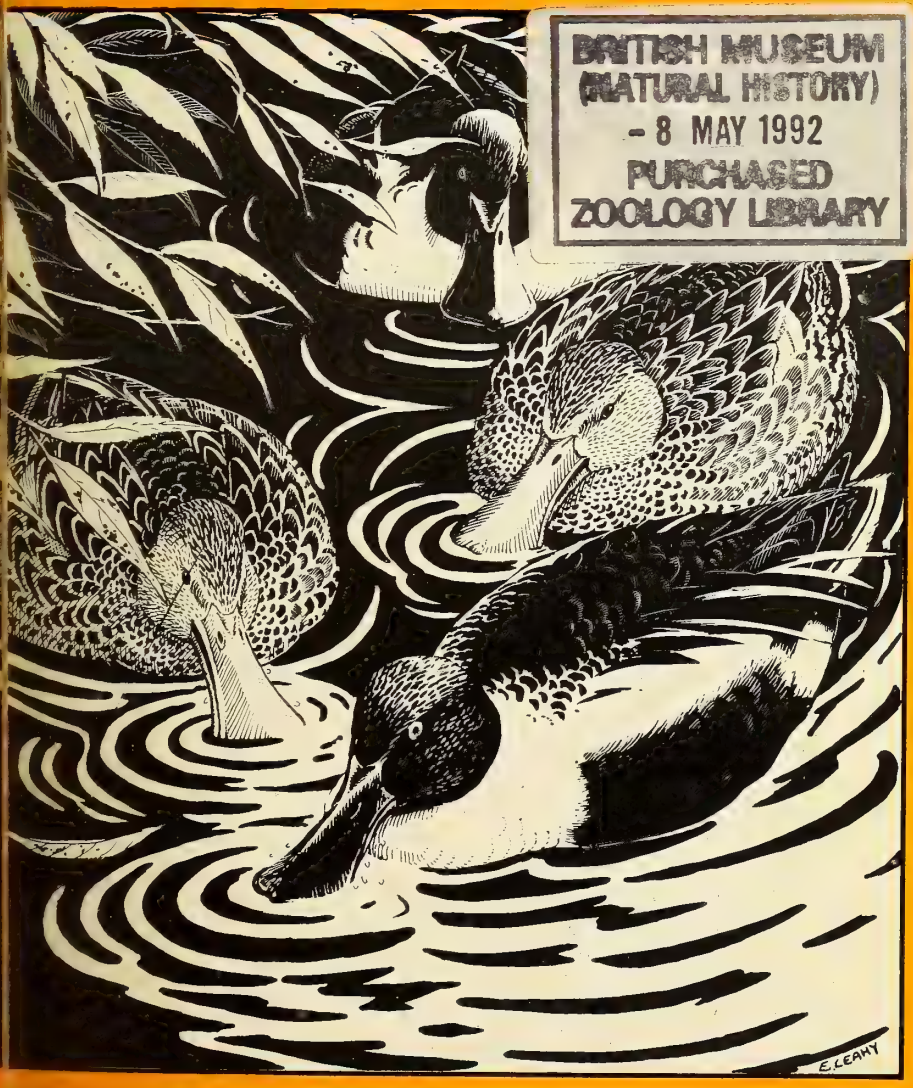
Line-drawings: 141 Immature Steppe Eagle with 'Steppe' Buzzards (*Alan Harris*)

Front cover: Moorhens (*Kim Franklin*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

2342

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 5 May 1992



BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 8 MAY 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Autumn 1991: passerines
Overseas bird tours survey
First-summer Hobbies in the New Forest
Review • Notes • Letters • Mystery photographs
Fieldwork action • ICBP news • News and comment
Monthly marathon • Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984): names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

204 HIGH STREET
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
NOW OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 081-449 1445
PHONE 081-441 7748
FAX: 081-440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR

EGLETON NATURE RESERVE
RUTLAND WATER FRI 4TH, SAT 5TH, SUN 6TH SEPT.

"IN FOCUS" at SLIMBRIDGE

NEW SHOWROOM AT WWT, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS. OPEN THE SECOND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH STARTING 9th & 10th MAY; 13th & 14th JUNE; 11th &12th JULY & 8th & 9th AUGUST.

SPRING FIELD EVENT PROGRAMME

In focus are pleased to offer our customers some of the best viewing facilities throughout the UK in conjunction with the RSPB, County Trusts and other organisations. Full optical demonstrations are presented, usually from working hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10.00 am-4.00 pm. We advise, for your convenience, appointments for the two-day events which can be arranged by writing or telephoning either of our showrooms.

RUTLAND WATER LEICS. SAT 2ND MAY SUN 3RD MAY	PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY, DORSET SUN. 16TH MAY	FINGRINHOE NR. COLCHESTER ESSEX SUN. 17TH MAY	BLACKTOFT SANDS HUMBERSIDE SAT 23RD MAY SUN 24TH MAY	DUNGENESS KENT SAT 30TH MAY SUN 31ST MAY
LEMSFORD SPRINGS HERTS SUN. 10TH MAY	GWY ADAR 92 FESTIVAL OF BIRDS 92 SUN 24TH MAY MON 25TH MAY	LLANELLI WWT DYFED SAT. 6TH JUNE SUN. 7TH JUNE	ARUNDEL WWT WEST SUSSEX SAT 20TH JUNE SUN 21ST JUNE	BROOMHILL FLASH BARNSLEY SAT 27TH JUNE SUN 28TH JUNE

BAUSCH & LOMB £
Elite 7x30 BGAP 599.00
Elite 8x42BGA 659.00
Elite 10x42BGA 659.00
Custmn 8x36B 229.00
Custom 10x40BGA 249.00
Legacy 8x24 89.00
Elite 22x50BGA 309.00
Elite 15x-45x50BGAP 369.00
Elite 77 385.00
Elite 77ED 775.00
20xWA 148.00
30x 138.00
20-60x Zoom 198.00
Case 33.95
Photo Adaptor 189.00

LEICA £
Trinovid 8x20BC 199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC 239.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA 239.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA 255.00
Case for Mini 16.00
Trinovid 7x42BA 649.00
Trinovid 8x42BA 649.00
Trinovid 10x42BA 649.00

CARL ZEISS £
Deisgner 8x20BT*P 295.00
Deisgner 10x25BT*P 319.00
Dialyt 8x20BP 249.00
Dialyt 10x25BP 269.00
Dialyt 8x20BGA 315.00
Dialyt 8x30BGATP 529.00
Dialyt 7x42BGAT 639.00
Dialyt 10x40BGAT 639.00
Dialyt 10x40BT 689.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT 769.00
15x60 Porro GAT 1190.00
20x50 BGA £2850.00

ACCESSORIES
Rainguard 8.00
Eye Cups (set) 16.00
Eye Cups Hard (set) 16.00
Lanyard 5.00
Wide Lanyard 15.00
Spare Case from 19.00

NIKON £
7x20CFIII 69.00
9x25CFIII 79.00
8x23CFII 85.00
10x25CFII 89.00
8x20DCF 135.00
10x25DCF 150.00
9x40DCF 249.00
12x36DCF 279.00
8x40DCF 539.00
7x35E 199.00
8x30E 229.00
10x35E 249.99
6x-12x24DCF 329.00
Fieldscope II 20x60 304.00
20x-45x 379.00

Fieldscope EDII 20x60 555.00
20x-45x60 629.00
15x & 20x 65.00
30x & 40x 65.00
60x 65.00
20x-45x Zoom 147.00
Hoya MC Filter 20.00
Rubber Hood 10.00
Photo Kit 168.00
Stay-on Case 45.00
Spotting Scope 20x60GA 199.00
15x-45x60GA 265.00
20x 34.95
15-45x Zoom 100.00

SWIFT £
Trilyte 7x42BGA 148.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA 148.00
Trilyte 10x42BGA 150.00
Audubon HR5 8.5x44 230.00
Audubon 7x35BGA 329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body 149.00
15-45x Zoom 49.00
20x 20.00
Case 15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3.5" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with 50x-80x Hood, Case 2200.00
30x-50x 130.00
80x-130x 130.00
Erector Prism 289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA 227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA 257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA 246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA 249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA 268.00
Touring 8x30BGA 395.00
Touring 7x42BGA 445.00
Touring 10x40BGA 445.00
TBS HD Body 549.99
TBG HD Body 549.00
TBS 80 Body 390.00
TBG 80 Body 390.00
20x WA 122.00
30x WA 77.00
30x WA (new) 135.00
40x WA (new) 77.00
22x-60x Zoom 159.00
Soft Case 29.00
Hard Case 35.00
Stay-on Case for TBS/TBG 45.00

KOWA £
TS-601 219.00
TS-602 199.00
20x WA 64.00
25x 54.00
27x WA 94.00
20x-60x Zoom 109.00
Case 22.95
TSN-1 316.00

TSN-2 316.00
TSN-3 636.00
TSN-4 636.00
20x-60x Zoom 169.00
20x WA 109.00
25x 69.00
30x WA 139.00
40x 69.00
60x 119.00
77x 109.00
Skua Case 39.95
Rear Dust Dome 15.00
Spare OG Cover 6.00
27x WA (screw fit) 59.00
Screw/Bay Adapter 20.00
Case for TSN 24.95
Photo Adapter 800mm 129.00
Photo Adapter 1200mm 199.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30 49.95
Vega II 8x40 54.95
DIOPTRON 8x32 122.00
DIOPTRON 10x42 125.00
DIOPTRON 10x60 135.00
HR 8x32MC 152.00
HR 7x42MC 157.00
HR 8x42MC 155.00
HR 10x42MC 162.00
HR 10x50MC 178.00
HR Body 80mm 269.00
30x WA 33.00
27x80x zoom 85.00
HR Body, 22x & case 179.95
HR GA, 22x & case 189.95
HR 45, 22x & case 219.95
HR Body, 20x-60x & case 219.95
HR GA 20-60x & case 229.95
HR 45 20-60x & case 249.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA 32.00
Classic IF60 110.00
18x40WA 24.00
25x 24.00
25x HP 27.00
18x-45x zoom 61.00
Classic IF75 140.00
22xWA 24.00
30x 27.00
22x-47x zoom 61.00
Piccolo 128.00
Eye pieces from 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60 355.00
Piccolo ED 20-60x60 399.00
Photo kits from 30.00
Cases for scopes 15.00
Macro monocular 50.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B 139.95
Hanover 10x42B 149.95
Regent 8x42B 169.95
Kensington 10x42B 179.95

REDFIELD £
7x35BA 249.00
10x50BA 299.00
20-45x60GA 299.55

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS £
Opticron 20x80 390.00
Opticron 30x80 395.00

SWAROVSKI
10x40 Diana 372.00
7x30SLC 353.00
8x30SLC 365.00
8x20B 220.00
AT80 Body 547.00
22x WA 72.00
32x WA 124.00
20x-60x Zoom 164.00
Case 93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body 145.00
Spacemaster GA Body 178.00
15x-45x Zoom 79.00
22x WA 32.00
Case 20.00
Photo Kit 30.00

VELBON £
Victory 350 39.95
D-500 59.95
D-600 69.95
D-700 79.95

CULLMAN £
Hide Clamp 54.95
Shoulder Pod 29.95
Q/R System 10.95
Q/R Plate 5.95

SLIK £
Master D-3 89.95

MANFROTTO £
290/128 95.00
290B/128 99.00
144/128 105.00
144B/128 109.00
Tripod Strap 10.95
Q/R Plate 5.95
Monopod 079B 29.95
Monopod 134B 29.95

BENBO £
Trekker with Cullman Video Head 89.95
Trekker Monopod 29.95
95 Monopod 34.95

ACCESSORIES £
Car Window Mount 26.00
Universal Mount 26.00
Hide Clamps 38.00
Rainguards from 3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth 3.00
Tripod Strap 6.95
Lanyards from 4.00
Dust Away 3.95
Double Eyepiece Case 9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case 24.50

CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a 3 year period from date of purchase. In the event of equipment failure for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. We are a completely independent company whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

MAIL ORDERS
Just add £2.00 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa cards will be despatched same day.

SECONDHAND
Instruments always available. Turnover is fast but we now produce a comprehensive list. Phone or write.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes.

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK)
We are 500 yds east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car park.

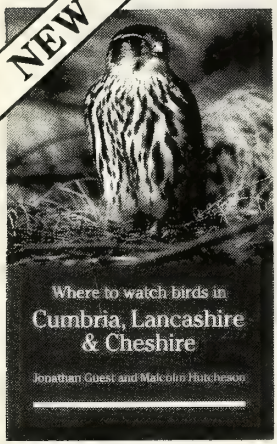
HOW TO FIND US (BARNET)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECONDHAND SCOPE. Ask for details.

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK at Briarfields Hotel, Titchwell when goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED ZEISS, LEITZ, KOWA, B&L etc. Ask for details.

As the UK's number one birdwatching optics supplier, **In focus** is proud to sponsor the 'County Bird Race' and 'The British Birdwatching Fair'. As a result of these and other ventures, **In focus** has directly contributed over £30,000 to local, national and international bird conservation over the last twelve months. British Birdwatching Fair (D131)

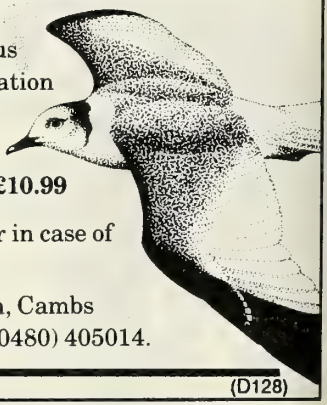


Where to watch birds in Cumbria, Lancashire & Cheshire

Jonathan Guest and Malcolm Hutcheson

Covering some of the most varied habitats in Britain, this new guide follows the usual *Where to watch birds* formula. Site descriptions look at habitat, species, access, timing and calendar plus all the practical information required to make the most of each trip.

ISBN: 0-7136-3519-3 **£10.99**



HELM

Order through your local bookshop or in case of difficulty please contact:

A&C Black, PO Box 19, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 3SF. Tel: (0480) 212666, Fax: (0480) 405014.

(D128)

FOCALPOINT VISA

The binocular and telescope specialists
Run by birders for birders

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS
(10.30am–4pm)

SALTHOUSE, Cley, Norfolk
BIRDWATCHERS WEEKEND Sat 2nd, Sun 3rd & Mon 4th May.
Binoculars, Telescopes, Books, Art and Clothing.
We shall be overlooking 'The Duck Pond'

CHURCH STRETTON, Shropshire, Sun 10th May
ORNITHOLOGISTS OPEN DAY at 'WESTHOLME', Hazler Road, Church Stretton.
Binocs, 'scopes, books and art with a special feature on 'Merlin' ventile clothing — the birder's choice.

BROWNHILL VISITOR CENTRE, Dobcross, nr Oldham, Gtr Manchester. Sunday 17th May. O.S. SD995063

SALTHOUSE, Cley, Norfolk.
BIRDWATCHERS WEEKEND. Sat 23rd, Sun 24th & Mon 25th May.
Binoculars, Telescopes, Books, Art and Clothing.
We shall be overlooking 'The Duck Pond'

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
Martin Mere, Lancs (M6, Jct 27). Sunday 21st June.

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
Washington, Tyne & Wear (District 15).

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 (D117)

For great birding...

Sunbirder
Birding package holidays

...the only way to go!

CAPE MAY	20 SEPT-3 OCT	FROM	**£990**
Leaders: Paul Holt and Bob Behrstock			
EILAT	4-11/18 NOV	FROM	**£465**
Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke			
BHARATPUR	18-27 JAN	FROM	**£1050**
Leader: Paul Holt			
EILAT	10-17/24 MARCH	FROM	**£475**
Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke			

Details from Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. Tel: 0767-682969.
(Please specify which event you are interested in).

(D130)

Get the full story behind the news



So everyone heard about the Pine Grosbeak in Shetland last month. But what was it doing there? What makes birds like Pine Grosbeaks, Nutcrackers, Waxwings and Pallas's Sandgrouse occur far outside their normal range in some years, but not others?

Find out by reading Eric Simms' fascinating examination of irruptive birds in the latest issue of BIRDWATCH magazine.

Also in Issue 3: birding Ireland with Anthony McGeehan and Chris Murphy - Rock, Water and Buff-bellied Pipits in colour - photography with mirror lenses - Hungary - New Zealand - ICBP Lifesong competition - birding day to remember - plus many more regulars.

If you're looking for intelligent reading, original ideas and high quality presentation, fill out the coupon below.

RSPB Business Supporter

BIRDWATCH
MAGAZINE

SPECIAL OFFER FOR 12 ISSUES

ORDER FORM

Name
Address
.....
..... Post code

Individuals (UK)	£12.90	**£23.50** ***SAVE £2.30***
Organisations (UK)	£18.00	**£33.00** ***SAVE £3.00***
Europe & s/mail	£19.20	**£34.00** ***SAVE £4.40***
Airmail	~~£44.90~~	**£75.00** ***SAVE £14.80***

I enclose a cheque/eurocheque/banker's draft/ PO for £..... payable to Solo Publishing Ltd

RETURN FORM TODAY TO: Subscription Dept, Solo Publishing Ltd, P O Box 1786, London E17 7JG

NATURETREK

BIRDING TREKS & TOURS
in

NEPAL · KASHMIR
LADAKH · ZANSKAR
BHUTAN · CHINA
ROMANIA · PYRENEES
INDIA · INDONESIA
MALAYSIA · TURKEY
GREECE · CYPRUS
KENYA · TANZANIA
EGYPT · ETHIOPIA
BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA
AUSTRALIA · MALAWI
NAMIBIA · MOROCCO
RWANDA · ZAIRE
GALAPAGOS · CRETE
NEW ZEALAND
NEWFOUNDLAND

Independent Travel · Tailor-made Tours · Private Safaris · Flights
For our brochure/expert advice phone **0962 733051**
CHAUTARA, BIGHTON, Nr.ALRESFORD, HANTS. SO24 9RB

The DORSET NATURALIST



WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS IN DORSET AND BEYOND

Most of our clients have been back to us at least once, and some more than a dozen times in the last four years.
Join us this year to find out why (take care though – we can be addictive . . .).

For our latest brochure, contact:
Jamie McMillan
The Dorset Naturalist,
9 Little Britain,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1NN
Tel: 0305 267994

(D119)

BIRDNET LTD
GRIP DONT DIP

48 – 25 – 36

These are the sort of statistics we like, why pay this amount per minute for bird news when BIRDNET offers you peace of mind by informing you of all the major rarities for less than **10p PER DAY**.

However, if you like to keep in touch with all the Ring-necked Ducks and Ring-billed Gulls, then as a BIRDNET member you can phone our information service for a fraction of the cost of the premium rate phone lines. Our operators give you the information you require (No gimmicks or commercials).

Information is our business, phone us on 0298-73052. We will pay for your rare bird news.

If you want to stay in touch even when you are out what better way than a MERCURY PAGER. As agents BIRDNET can offer a range of pagers with prices from as little as £13 per month.

Mercury COMMUNICATIONS

NON-MEMBERS can phone for the latest rare bird information on:
0839-007-765 ask for extension 3162.
On this number calls are charged at 36 pence per minute cheap rate and 48 pence per minute at all other times.

For further information write to:
BIRDNET LTD, OAKLANDS MANOR, LONG HILL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE SK17 6ST or phone: 0298 73054 or fax: 0298 73053

(D124)



FIELD DAYS

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in.

★ Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
on the B2145 into Selsey, W. Sussex, on **Sundays 26th April, 31st May, 28th June** and **26th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat andBall station on **Sundays 3rd May, 7th June** and **5th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 17th May, 14th June** and **19th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Bewl Water
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 26th April, 31st May, 28th June** and **26th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm). Show this advert for half price parking. Refund with purchase.

★ Alton Water
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 21st June** and **19th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ College Lake Wildlife Centre
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the Visitor Centre (main, central hide) on **10th May** and **4th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ Slimbridge, Glos.
(M5, Jct 13) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Monday 3rd August** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

FREE TRIPOD, WORTH £40 (SOLIGOR) with certain* telescopes – or pay the extra for a different tripod.

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

Some examples of our stocks:

At least £50 allowance for your old binos when buying these # Zeiss models

ZEISS	£
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)#	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)#	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
8 x 42 BA Elite	629
10 x 42 BA Elite	629
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
22 x 60 B Elite Scope	289
22 x 60 BGA Elite Scope	309
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
SWAROVSKI ★	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	239
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope ii 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	FREE
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265

KOWA ★	£
TSN-1 (45°) body (295)	316
TSN-2 body (295)	316
TSN-3 body (555)	636
TSN-4 body (555)	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case (24)	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	179
TS 602 scope body (45°)	179
27x (WA) eyepiece	100
20x (WA) eyepiece	55
25x (WA)	48
20-60x zoom	99
Case	20
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope with zoom EP	199
OPTOLYTH ★	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body (350)	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250

(Bracket prices while stocks last)

	£
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
15–45x zoom EP	49
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT ★	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
OBSERVATION	
Vixen 20 x 100	750
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215
MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81
NIGHT VISION	
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	1290
ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D2	73
Slik D3	85
Manfrotto 144/200	105
Manfrotto 144/128	100
Manfrotto 190/200	93
Uni-Loc	90
Soligor 550	40
Universal clamp	23
Hide clamp II	38
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat 9am to 5pm (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports**
 including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit**
 (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

(D126)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

NEW COST SAVING OPTIONS Now Available



RELIABLE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE

RARE BIRD ALERT

It's about time you discovered for yourself why our pagers have proved to be the best way of getting all the rarity news, and directions:



- **INDOORS** or **IN THE FIELD** – simply read all the latest news and directions from the screen in your pocket
- Phone **FREE** 0800 246 246
- or call **Dick Filby** of the Rare Bird Alert Team on 0603 767799
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIP** Get a pager, **NOW!**
- Please Phone in sightings of rarities to the Rare Bird Alert **HOTLINE** 0426 952 952. Hotline calls charged at local rates. A donation to conservation for every call
- £10 donated to RSPB for every pager ordered
- **NEWS OF ALL BB RARITIES – EVERY DAY** (and many sub-rarities too), with full directions on the message pagers when a bird turns up or if it moves
- **REMEMBER** once you've paid your basic rental there are no extra charges, no matter how many messages we send you, and no matter how much news there is.

YOU'LL SEE MORE with a Rare Bird Alert pager . . .

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

INTER-CITY PAGING

(D12

FSC

Overseas

Are your birdwatching skills developed to their fullest?

The FSC offers you expert tuition in birding with a wide range of courses to destinations overseas including Hungary, The Netherlands, Majorca, Islay and The Camargue. The courses are designed to suit all levels of experience, alternatively 'tailor-made' tours can be arranged for individual groups. Many other tours such as botanical and wildlife courses are included in our 1992/93 programme, to provide an exciting variety of 'Courses for all'.

For a copy of our full programme contact:
FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL (Overseas-BBS), Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1HW.
Tel: (0743) 850164 (D118)

GOURMET BIRDS

Birding holidays for the discriminating birdwatcher

Gourmet Birds holidays are personally researched, planned and led by David and Jan Tomlinson, and cater for those who prefer Margaux to Liebfraumilch, or purple-throated fruit crows to carrion crows

Future destinations include France, Menorca, South Africa, Costa Rica and Australia

For details contact
David Tomlinson, Windrush, Coles Lane, Brasted, Westerham, Kent TN16 1NN
Tel: 0959 563627;
Fax: 0959 562906 (D113)

(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 8 MAY 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRANT LANDBIRDS

Edited by John M. Hagan III and David W. Johnston

This is the first technical volume to focus exclusively on the question of northern hemispheric migratory landbird declines and their conservation. More than 100 leading scholars working in the Americas and the Caribbean report on the problems facing these birds and suggest strategies for research and conservation.

1 color, 45 b&w illus. 576 pp.
Cloth: 1-56098-113-X £37.50 $55.25
Paper: 1-56098-140-7 £13.95 $21.50



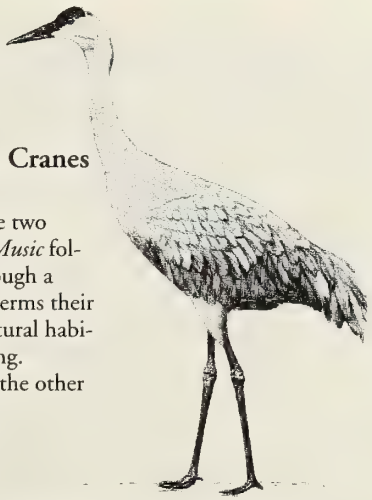
NEW WORLD PARROTS IN CRISIS

Solutions from Conservation Biology

Edited by Steven R. Beissinger and Noel F. R. Snyder

Detailing the plight of one of the most threatened groups of birds in the world, this book also proposes a range of possible conservation solutions. The essays explore such topics as the role of economics in parrot conservation, ecotourism and parrot ranching, and legal regulation of international parrot trade.

9 b&w illus. 304 pp.
Cloth: 1-56098-110-5 £27.25 $41.95
Paper: 1-56098-136-9 £13.25 $20.25



CRANE MUSIC

A Natural History of American Cranes

Paul A. Johnsgard

A lyrically written natural history of the two North American crane species, *Crane Music* follows the sandhill and the whooper through a yearly cycle, detailing in nontechnical terms their migratory journeys and formations, natural habitats, call patterns, and exuberant dancing. Johnsgard also presents an overview of the other 13 species of cranes roaming the earth.

23 b&w illus. 144 pp.
Cloth: 1-56098-051-6 £15.50 $23.95

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION PRESS



U.K. sales information: University Press Marketing • The Old Mill • Mill Street Wantage, Oxfordshire • OX12 9AB England • 02357-66662
U.K. and European distribution: IBD Ltd. • Campus 400, Maylands Ave. Hemel Hempstead Herts • HP2 7EZ England • 0442-881900

(D125)

St. Anns Books



Rectory House, 26 Priory Road,
Great Malvern, Worcestershire. WR14 3DR
Tel: 0684 - 562818 Fax: 0684 - 566491

We are international mail-order specialists dealing **Exclusively** in **Bird Books**, with an ever-changing stock of approximately 2000 **Secondhand** titles always available, including **Rare** and **Desirable** items. We also stock 800 **New** titles

Efficient, Friendly Service • Prompt Despatch • Expert Packing

Catalogues are regularly issued, and are **Free** on request

Being fully computorised, we would be pleased to record your *"Wants"*. We would then quote you (without obligation) when copies became available.

(D991)

Rare Bird News you can trust from the team you know

BIRDLINE 0898 700 222

Supporting Conservation



Hear the news *first* fro the nationwide team, which includes six of t top twelve British life-li holders, three *British Birds* Rarities Committ members and nine County Bird Recorders and committee membe

CALLS TO ALL 0891 NUMBERS ARE CHARGED INC VAT AT 38P PER MIN. CHEAP RATE, 48P PER MIN. ALL OTHER TI

(D123)

BIRDWATCHERS 1992
SPRING FAIR
Kingsbury Water Park
May 29th - 30th

We will be pleased to welcome ustomers old and new to our stand.

ook for 'Team Focus Optics' in the 'National Bird Race' this month!

Newcomers to our bird table include great spotted woodpecker, siskin and tree sparrow.

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

ZEISS

40 BGAT*P	639.00
42 BGAT*P	639.00
30 BGAT*P	529.00
ign selection	
20 BT*P	295.00
25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

ovid 8x20 BCA	239.00
ovid 10x25 BCA	255.00
7x42 BA	649.00
8x42 BA	649.00
10x42 BA	649.00

OPTOLYTH

n 8x40 BGA	246.00
n 10x40 BGA	249.00
ing 10x40	445.00
G 80 Body	390.00
G 80 Fluorite	549.00
60x zoom EP	159.00
VA	122.00
VA	135.00

NIKON

CF III	69.95
D ECF	229.00
15 ECF	249.00
scope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
ing scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

oat 8x42	169.95
oat 10x42	179.95
oat 10x50	198.95
15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	219.00
TS 602 Body	199.00
20x WA	64.00
25x40x	54.00
20x-60x zoom EP	109.00
Case for 601 and 602	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20x WA	109.00
30x WA	139.00
25x40x	69.00
20x-60x zoom EP	169.00
Case for TSN Range	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	129.00
Photo adaptor 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 25x60mm	126.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x H.E.P.	27.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R.Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 8x42 RA	629.00
Elite 10x42 RA	629.00
Elite Telescope 22x60 RA	309.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	159.00
15-45x zoom EP	49.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	239.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	52.00
190 Legs	41.00
055 Legs	73.00
200 Video Head	52.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

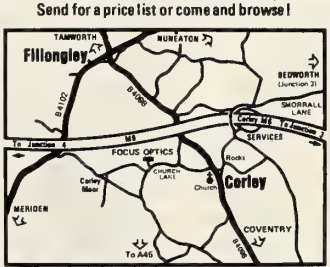
WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday-Saturday 9am until 5pm
Sunday-10am until 4pm
(Closed on Monday)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:
QUESTAR•FUJINON•FUMOTO
MIRADOR•BRESSER•PENTAX
REDFIELD•OPTIMA•PRAKTICA
Billingham Equipment Bags.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic.
Send for a price list or come and browse!



Focus Optics- The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!
Ample free safe parking.

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

NING
NES
-Sat
-5pm
SDAY
10 -4pm

(D114)

New Books From
T & A D POYSER



THE ANCIENT MURRELET

A Natural History in the Queen Charlotte Islands

Anthony J. Gaston

Breeding along the northern Pacific coast from British Columbia to Japan, this little known bird dwelt in obscurity until it became the focus of a conservation debate which has resulted in a new National Park in the Queen Charlotte Islands where half the world's population breeds. This is a seabird that breeds in burrows, sings in treetops and rears its young entirely at sea.
Truly an extraordinary subject for a species monograph.

February 1992, £17.00
c.200 pages, ISBN: 0.85661.070.4

Available from all good or from:
T & A D POYSER
24-28 Oval Road
London NW1 7DX
Telephone: 071-267-4466 (D103)

BIRDGUIDES

Birding Tours for the enthusiast. Expert leadership – all levels of experience are catered for.

Recent destinations have included:
Majorca
S.W. Spain
Gambia
Venezuela
Kenya
Israel

Full details from:
PETER WOLSTENHOLME
31 South Park Road,
Gatley, Cheadle,
Cheshire SK8 4AL
Tel. 061-428-2175
(D122)

Birdwatching Tours in N-E Australia

Cairns/Atherton Tablelands – Gulf Country – Cape York

Throughout the year we offer fully accommodated and personalised tours (6 birdwatchers maximum) to search for the common and special birds of North Queensland. For further information please contact:

Kirrama Wildlife Tours
P.O. Box 133
Silkwood, N. Qld 4856
Australia
Fax: 61 07 655 197
(D111)

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE – TEL 0703 221597

SAME DAY DESPATCH – 14 DAY HOME TRIAL – MAJOR UK STOCKISTS

SCOPES

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle) £219
TSN-602 Body (straight) £199
20 x WA £64
27 x (New) WA £94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle) £316
TSN 2 Body (straight) £316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle) £636
TSN 4 Body (straight) £636
20 x WA £109

~~£2x~~ ~~£10~~
Eyepiece Clearance – Take 50% off this price!

30 x WA £139
40 x £69
60 x £119
77 x £109
20-60x Zoom £169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof) £39.95
Standard Case £24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm) £129

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x £199
Spotting Scope c/w 18-45 x £265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x £304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x £379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x £554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x £629.95
Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

SWAROVSKI

AT 80 Body £547
22 x WA £72
20-60 x Zoom £164

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster c/w 20-60 x Zoom £190

GREENKAT

Kestrel 20 x 60 Waterproof £209
Kestrel 30 x 60 Waterproof £219

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom £198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body £390
TBG 80 Body £390
20 x W £77
20 x WW £122
30 x £77
30 x WW £135
40 x £77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece £159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body £549

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case £179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case £189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case £229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case £219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case £249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x £269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x £168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x £206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x £183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom £399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W £355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece £85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece £34
25 x HR Eyepiece £31
40 x HR Eyepiece £31
HR Photoadaptor Variable £33
Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON PACKAGE DEALS • PHONE FOR UK'S LOWEST PRICES

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£149.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£193.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 B	~~£209.95~~	£169.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50		£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC £199
8 x 20 BCA £226
10 x 25 BC £226
10 x 25 BCA £239
7 x 42 BA £628
8 x 42 BA £628
10 x 42 BA £628

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured £485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured £495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA) £227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA £246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA £249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA £268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA £273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B £236
10 x 25 B £259
8 x 20 BGA £305
8 x 20 Monocular £139



8 x 30 BGAT* P £809
7 x 42 BGAT* P £589
8 x 56 BGAT* P £729
10 x 40 BGAT* P £599
7 x 50 BGAT* P £599
8 x 20B (New Style) £295
10 x 25B (New Style) £320

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact £215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism £365

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B £199
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY £269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA £199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW £79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA £629
Elite 10 x 42 BGA £629

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism £99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism £99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism £141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact £81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact £83
DWCF 8 x 24 Compact £151
Dioptron 8 x 32 B £117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B £121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B £122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B £125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B £136
HR 8 x 32 MC £152
HR 7 x 42 MC £155
HR 8 x 42 MC £157
HR 10 x 42 MC £162
HR 10 x 50 MC £178
Minerva 8 x 30 £169
Minerva 8 x 40 £175
Minerva 10 x 40 £179
Observer 20 x 80 £409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass £239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof £183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact £65
9 x 25 CF Compact £84
8 x 20 F £134
10 x 25 F £149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof £170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof £175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact £299
8 x 30 WFC £199

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW £84.95
8 x 22 Pocket £79
9 x 24 Pocket £89
10 x 25 Pocket £99
8 x 40 STD £89
10 x 50 STD £109
7-15 x 35 Zoom £119
7 x 21 x 50 Zoom £139
7 x 50 STD £104

LCE

SECONDHAND

BINOS
Panorama Merlin 8 x 40 £49
Swift Skipper 7 x 50 Mk II £79
Swift Satellite 20 x 80 £199

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2 £72.95
Slik D3 £89.95
Velbon D-600 £69.95
Velbon D-700 £79.95

Most Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH
(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen) 0703 221597/335363
Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

5% RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- ☆ Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

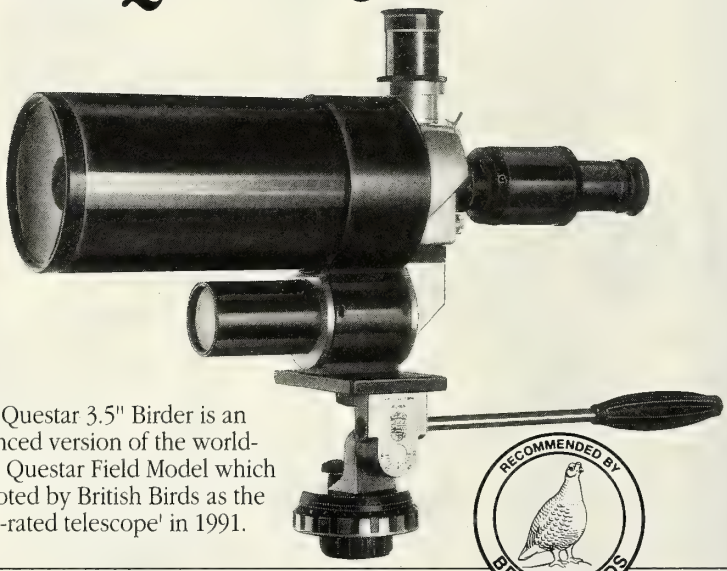
FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- ☆ 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- ☆ Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- ☆ Major credit cards accepted.

(D110)

THE ULTIMATE SPOTTING SCOPE !

The Questar 3.5" Birder.



The Questar 3.5" Birder is an enhanced version of the world-famous Questar Field Model which was voted by British Birds as the 'Top-rated telescope' in 1991.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Features include:

- 3 power changes without changing the eyepiece, 10x - 40x - 65x
- unrivalled resolution and image brightness
- smooth precise focus from 8 meters to infinity
- convenience of separate selectable eyepiece & camera ports
- packaged in waterproof case with space for camera and tripod
- selection of eyepieces, dew cap, quick release lens caps.

A broad range of options include image erecting prism and camera adapters for most camera models.

With the favourable US-dollar at the moment, this is the time to buy your Questar Bird

"The superb spotting scope" according to AUDUBON Magazine.

We will gladly supply you with all details and prices.

Questar (Europe),
Catsheuvel 6, 2517 JZ The Hague, Holland
phone (+31) 70 3558315, fax (+31) 70 3512411

QUESTAR
the optical innovators

(D1

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 5 MAY 1992

Seasonal reports

Autumn 1991 Part 2: passerines



Barry Nightingale and Keith Allsopp

This report includes some unchecked reports, as well as authenticated records

Southern jewels

July is not noted for its movements of passerines, and rarities tend to receive even more attention than usual. The outstanding feature of an otherwise quiet start to the autumn was the continued influx of **Bee-eaters** *Merops apiaster*. For the last ten years, annual occurrences have averaged 20 individuals, but this number had already been seen during May and June. Thirteen more were reported during 1st-5th July, with three south over Flamborough Head (Humberside), four in Essex, two at Elvaston Quarry (Derbyshire), and singles in East Sussex, Kent, West Sussex and Suffolk. On 10th July, singles were at Spurn (Humberside) and Titchwell (Norfolk), with two at Blakeney (Norfolk), and the next day at Stronsay (Orkney), when there were also five at Old Hall Marsh (Essex). Perhaps these last five were the same as those seen at Cliffe (Kent) on 21st July, when there was also one at Sandwich Bay (Kent). Five going north over Dungeness (Kent) on 27th were followed by singles at Rye Harbour (East Sussex) and Formby (Lancashire) on 28th July. Another six reports followed in August, and eight more in September, seven of which were together at Lochar Water (Dumfries & Galloway) on 12th. This brought the total for July-September to over 50, and, although there will have been some duplication as groups moved around the country, 1991 will almost certainly exceed the record year of 1988, when 31 were accepted.

Winds during July had remained mostly between southwest and southeast (more frequently than is usual for July), and with temperatures some 2°C above average this no doubt encouraged more southern exotica to reach our shores. Three **Woodchat Shrikes** *Lanius senator*, eight widely scattered **Alpine Swifts** *Apus melba*, from Cornwall to Orkney, a **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* in Co. Clare on 17th July and a

Roller *Coracias garrulus* in Holkham Pines (Norfolk) on 29th were among them.

Of the commoner species, large movements of **Swifts** *A. apus* were particularly noticeable early in the month, with 1,700 over Climping Beach (West Sussex) on 4th July, 25,000 passing south over Spurn during 7th-8th, and on the next day in Lincolnshire 1,000 per hour over River Witham and 15,000 over Gibraltar Point. During 9th-15th July, 300 flew south daily past Whitburn (Tyne & Wear).

Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* were reported from many areas, including almost daily at Flamborough Head, 36 at Holkham NNR on 3rd July, 30 at Landguard (Suffolk) on 19th, 45 at Holme (Norfolk) on 20th and 12 at Rutland Water (Leicestershire) on 31st. A total of 355 was counted at Gibraltar Point during July, and many other coastal observations from Scilly to Fair Isle indicated fresh arrivals.

Siskins *Carduelis spinus*, too, were on the move much earlier, and in larger groups than is usual. Records from Orkney included only their second and third breeding records, and there were influxes into Lincolnshire, with 25 at Gibraltar Point on 11th July, a noticeable movement through Worcestershire on 22nd, and flocks of over 100 in Tyne & Wear. Many other counties, particularly along the English south coast reported unprecedented numbers for July.

A post-breeding flock of 71 **Mistle Thrushes** *Turdus viscivorus* at Billinge Hall (Greater Manchester) on 21st July was a good local record at least, as was a showy **Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides* in Northamptonshire, which gave many observers unusually prolonged views. A **Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* at Lowestoft North Denes (Suffolk) on 19th July was unseasonal, but hinted at the good numbers to come, and, on the same day, an early **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* appeared at Weir Wood Reservoir (East Sussex). **Yellow Wagtails** *Motacilla flava* were also on the move, with flocks passing through Dungeness. A **Serin** *Serinus serinus* in Nottinghamshire on 27th July was that county's first, and one in Bedfordshire on 30th was only the second. Nottinghamshire then chalked up its second addition within a few days, with an **Alpine Swift** at Flintham on 2nd August, the same day as a **Roller** appeared in Dyfed.



The first half of August, however, remained generally quiet for landbirds. The weather was unhelpful, to observers at least, being mostly hot and sunny, and reports from different areas of the country used such terms as 'very average' and even 'mediocre'. Westerly winds and some localised heavy thunderstorms set the weather pattern, and from 17th August a northwesterly airflow became established across Britain and Ireland.

Aquatic Warblers *Acrocephalus paludicola* are typical of August, and they showed well this year, with 25 reports, the first from the Lizard (Cornwall) on 12th August. The majority were in southwest England, as expected, but one at Donna Nook on 21st was a good Lincolnshire record.

On 20th August, an anticyclone moved through the English Channel into Germany, introducing a southerly airflow and rising temperatures. This, combined with a deep area of low pressure to the south of Ireland on 22nd August, brought the first real movement of Scandinavian drift migrants, with single **Barred Warblers** *Sylvia nisoria*, on Stronsay and Fair Isle, followed by seven others between 23rd and 31st August. A **Woodchat Shrike** in Scilly was new on 22nd, as was a **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* on the Farne Islands (Northumberland), narrowly beating three more in Shetland on 26th. Five **Wrynecks** and 11 **Icterine Warblers** *Hippolais icterina* appeared before the end of the month.

Of the common migrants, there were 'hundreds of **Wheatears'** *Oenanthe oenanthe* on Jersey on 23rd August, 7,000 Swallows *Hirundo rustica* south over Gibraltar Point on 24th, and, the next day, Dungeness, Sandwich Bay and Gibraltar Point all received their first autumn falls, with **Reed Warblers** *A. scirpaceus*, **Yellow Wagtails** and **Willow Warblers** *P. trochilus* featuring prominently



99. Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, September 1991 (*David Knight*)



100. Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Priory Country Park, Bedfordshire, October 1991 (*David Kramer*)

101. Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, Cocknage Wood, Staffordshire, October 1991 (*Clifford Heyes*)





Many coastal observatories, however, noted a dearth of the last species, and also of **Goldcrests** *Regulus regulus,* which were to remain scarce all autumn.

More landfalls occurred on 26th August, with **Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*, **Ortolan Bunting** *E. hortulana* and **Marsh Warbler** *A. palustris* in Kent and a **Red-headed Bunting** *E. bruniceps* in Dorset. **Swallows** moved over Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork), 5,000 in all, on 27th, and good numbers of **Yellow Wagtails** were reported from many localities. Our resident population of **Starlings** *Sturnus vulgaris* has decreased these last few years, but 6,000 arriving at Gibraltar Point helped to swell the numbers.

From 26th August, the area of high pressure over Germany moved northeast to settle over northern Scandinavia and thus brought a shift of interest from the southeast of England to the northeast. Between 28th and 31st August, a **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*, two **Red-backed Shrikes** *L. collurio*, two **Barred Warblers** and an **Ortolan Bunting** appeared at Flamborough Head, an **Arctic Warbler** *P. borealis* at Hartlepool (Cleveland), **Icterine Warblers** at Filey (North Yorkshire) and Spurn, and a **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A. dumetorum* at Hauxley (Northumberland).

On a more sober note, but of much more importance than these strays, were **Bearded Tits** *Panurus biarmicus* making news by extending their normal East Anglian stronghold. Four at Mugdrum Island (Fife) from 22nd to 24th August were the first in Scotland since 1972; they also bred in the London area and, for the first time, in Avon.

September—full of eastern promise

Sunny and very warm weather dominated the first week of September and new arrivals had a real eastern flavour. Seven more **Icterine Warblers** in the first two days came in with **Greenish Warblers** to Norfolk and Grampian, a **Lesser Grey Shrike** *L. minor* in Norfolk, two **Bonelli's Warblers** *P. bonelli* in Ireland—where there are still fewer than 20 records—and two **Booted Warblers** *H. caligata*, at Spurn (plate 106) and North Ronaldsay (Orkney). Another **Bonelli's Warbler** at Southwell (Dorset), a **Red-throated Pipit** *A. cervinus* in Dyfed and two **Yellow-breasted Buntings** *E. aureola* on Fair Isle were reported on 6th, followed by the autumn's third **Roller** on 8th, at Orfordness (Suffolk). There were also eight **Ortolan Buntings** during 7th-11th.

A southwesterly airflow covered Britain and Ireland during 13th-21st September, but, despite this, the emphasis continued from the east, no doubt encouraged by a high-pressure area which developed over Greece and moved quickly north to Germany. Assisted by these conditions came **Red-rumped Swallow** and **Richard's Pipit** *A. novaeseelandiae* to Norfolk, two **Arctic Warblers** to Fair Isle, where **Yellow-breasted Buntings** had increased to three, and **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella*

102. Top left, juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* and Starling *S. vulgaris*, St Mary's, Scilly, October 1991 (*Steve Young*)

103. Top right, juvenile Red-backed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*, West Bexington, Dorset, September 1991 (*Barry Mitchell*)

104. Centre left, Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*, Isle of Wight, November 1991 (*David M. Cottridge/Avian Photos*)

105. Centre right, Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* of eastern race *maura*, Gugh, Scilly, October 1991 (*David Tipling/Avian Photos*)

106. Bottom, Booted Warbler *Hippolais pallida*, Spurn, Humberside, September 1991 (*Steve Young*)

The inclusion of plates 102-109 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany.*

















THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Zeiss experience and quality has ieved a world wide reputation excellence.
heir latest Binocular Survey, the of the universally respected.

British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hanningtons Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough, Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

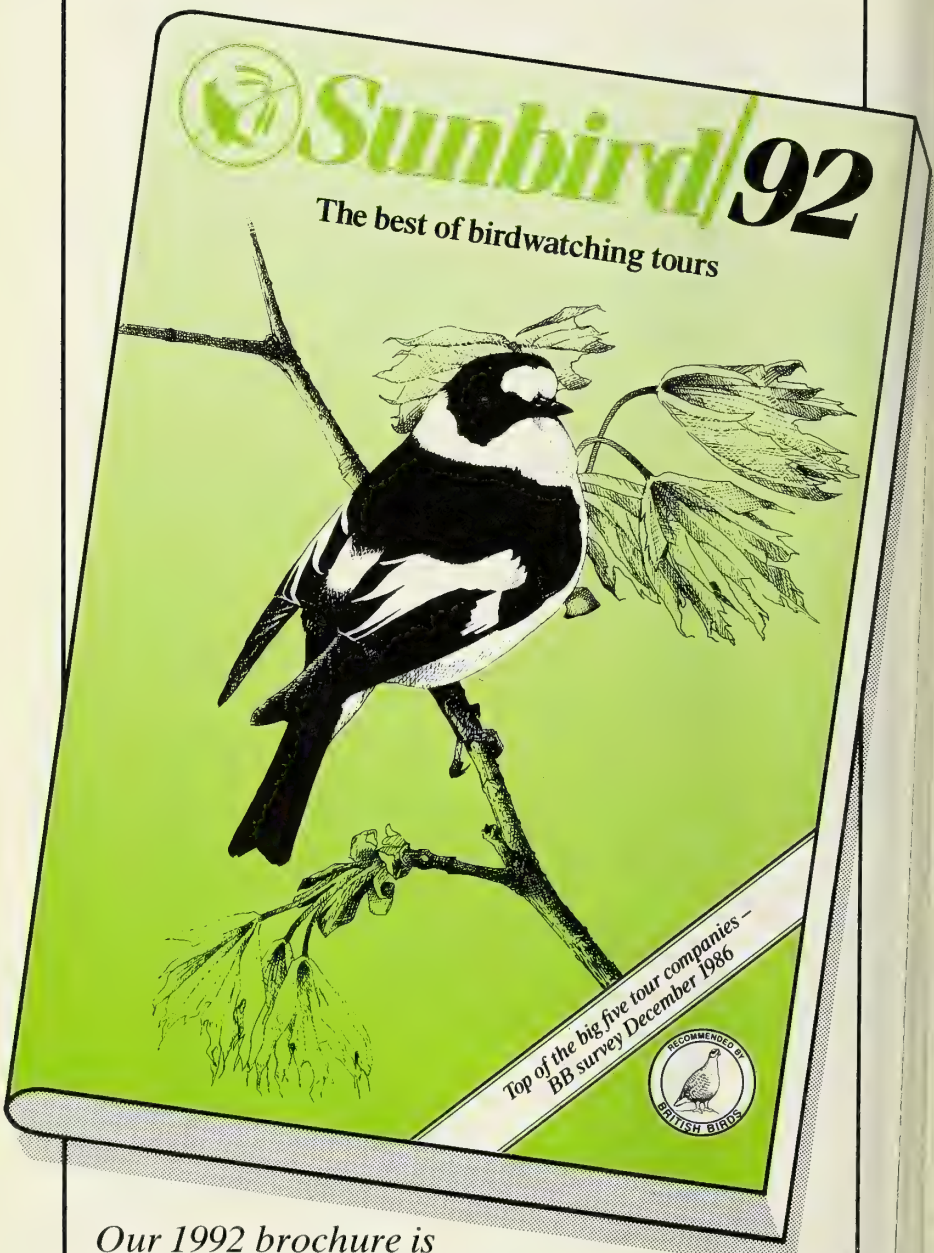
SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports

Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the country.

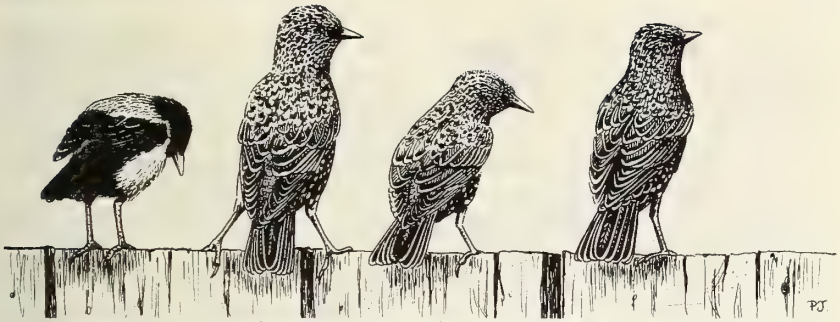
If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

ZEISS
Germany Carl Zeiss



Our 1992 brochure is now available, write to Sunbird, P.O. Box 76, Sandy, Beds, SG19 1DF for your copy today!

(D889)



brachydactyla to Humberside. Several hundred **Meadow Pipits** *A. pratensis* moved south over Whitburn on 15th and 100 **Sedge Warblers** *A. schoenobaenus* landed on Lundy.

Appearing in strength, too, were **Rose-coloured Starlings** *Sturnus roseus*, with seven arriving between 15th September and the end of the month, scattered between Uist (Western Isles) and Scilly. Two more arrived in Scilly during October (plate 102), together with three in Scotland, one at Spurn and two more in southwest England, to make this a bumper autumn for this once extreme rarity.

Greenish Warblers, **Arctic Warbler** and **Little Buntings** *E. pusilla* on 17th September made an impressive trio in the Northern Isles, but were overshadowed by the arrival that day of a **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* in Devon (plate 107), Britain's first mainland record. Also making history was Bedford-shire's first **Penduline Tit**, found on 18th September at Priory Country Park. **Siskins** were still abundant, with good numbers reaching Cornwall, 300 at Trevail



JPPW

for instance, and there were 200-300 on most days from 20th September to the end of the month at Dungeness.

On 21st September, a deep depression tracked northeastwards between Scotland and Iceland, bringing extremely windy conditions to Britain and Ireland, and with it more transatlantic visitors. Britain's earliest **Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* arrived in Scilly on 22nd, the same day as a **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* in Co. Cork. Also in Ireland was a **Lesser Grey Shrike** at Dungarvan (Co. Waterford), from 21st-24th September (plate 99). Rare migrants were arriving by now from both east and west, with **Greenish Warblers** in Scilly on 22nd, another in Kent on 23rd, the first of two **Citrine Wagtails** *M. citreola* in Shetland, **Olivaceous Warbler** *H. pallida* in Scilly and **Rustic Bunting** *E. rustica* on North Ronaldsay. Exceptionally, five **Pechora Pipits** *A. gustavi* arrived in the Northern Isles in just three days, during 20th-22nd September.

A passage of 20,000 **House Martins** *Delichon urbica* headed south over Sandwich Bay on 23rd September, and on 25th a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* was found dead on North Ronaldsay. A rapidly developing cyclone to the west of Ireland on 27th September moved into the Bay of Biscay on 28th, dragging strong easterlies and stormy weather across Britain and, with it, ten **Barred Warblers**, seven **Wrynecks** and six **Red-backed Shrikes** *L. collurio* to Norfolk; 5,000 House Martins moved south in less than an hour over the Parrett Estuary (Somerset) and 1,100 were grounded by heavy rain at Barn Elms Reservoir (London).

107. Top, Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Soar Warren, Devon, September 1991 (*David Tipling/ Avian Photos*)

108. Centre, Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Scilly, October 1991 (*R. C. Kilgour*)

109. Bottom, Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, Cocknage Wood, Staffordshire, October 1991 (*Steve Young*)

Over 30 **Yellow-browed Warblers** *P. inornatus* and 20 **Red-breasted Flycatchers** *Ficedula parva* arrived during 28th-30th September, with 18 of the former and 12 of the latter between Holy Island (Northumberland) and Gibraltar Point, together with six **Wrynecks** and three **Great Grey Shrikes** *L. excubitor*. A **White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma* arrived on 27th to tantalise many observers in Highland, a **Great Reed Warbler** *A. arundinaceus* was in Shetland the same day, and the first **Lanceolated Warbler** *L. lanceolata* came to Fair Isle on 28th. A male **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* showing characteristics of the southeastern race *samamisicus* appeared at Southwold (Suffolk) on 29th, and during 28th-30th September eight **Stonechats** *Saxicola torquata* of the eastern race *maura/stejnegeri* arrived.

Rich autumn fruits

October is, for rarity-seekers, the most exciting period of the year, and many observers make their own temporary, south-westerly dispersal, mostly in the hope of meeting transatlantic visitors coming the other way. Certainly the weather pattern was in their favour, for during 1st-6th October a series of lows moved quickly between Newfoundland and Iceland and birds caught up in the southern fringes of the rapidly moving airstream were deposited in Britain and Ireland. Cornwall had the first to arrive, with a **Red-eyed Vireo** on 2nd, and a **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla*, a potential first for the Western Palearctic, reported in Cot Valley on 3rd. Another **Red-eyed Vireo** reached Suffolk on 6th, when a **Tennessee Warbler** *V. peregrina* was reported from Highland, and on 7th a **Swainson's Thrush** *C. ustulatus* landed in Scilly, with a **Bobolink** there the next day.

With a low developing in the Bay of Biscay on 9th October, and high pressure

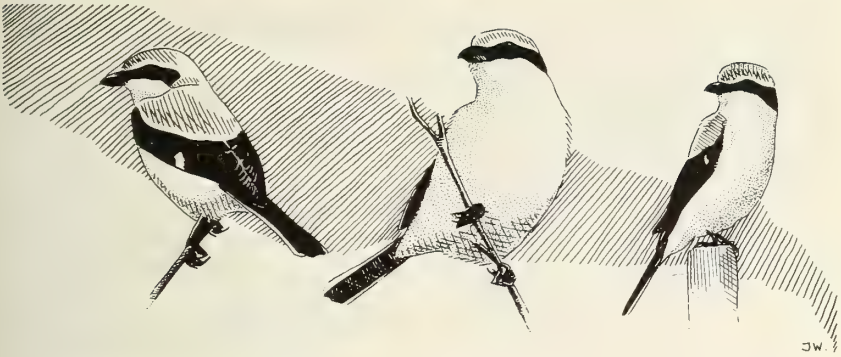


over Scandinavia, the resulting easterly airflow brought movement from a different quarter. Thrushes were much in evidence on 9th, with enormous numbers of **Redwings** *T. iliacus* arriving in Orkney, together with **Olive-backed Pipit** *A. hodgsoni* and **Rustic Bunting** on North Ronaldsay. A **Pied Wheatear** *O. pleschanka* was found in Shetland and a **Desert Wheatear** *O. deserti* in Dorset, with another in Lincolnshire the following day. **Redwings** continued to pour in, with 25,000 on Fair Isle on 10th, together with 600 **Bramblings** *Fringilla montifringilla*, and there were 8,000-10,000 **Redwings** at St Abbs (Borders). During 12th-16th, a remarkable series of sightings occurred, with **Isabelline Shrike** *L. isabellinus*, **Eyebrowed Thrush** *T. obscurus* and **Isabelline Wheatear** *O. isabellina* in Scilly, three **Red-eyed Vireos**, in Cleveland, Co. Wexford and Lothian (only Scotland's third), **Pine Buntings** *E. leucocephalos* on North Ronaldsay and at Flamborough, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** in Co. Clare and Scilly, **Paddyfield Warbler** *A. agricola* in Co. Cork, **Desert Warbler** *S. nana* in Humberside, **Citrine Wagtail** in Orkney, **Pied Wheatear** in Shetland and a **Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* in Staffordshire (plates 101 & 109).

During 5th-15th October, a remarkable 19 **Radde's Warblers** *P. schwarzi* were reported, including one inland at Bedford's Priory Country Park (plate 100), 12 **Richard's Pipits**, 26 eastern **Stonechats** (plate 105), nine **Pallas's Warblers** *P. proregulus*, over 130 **Yellow-browed Warblers** (plate 108), two **Dusky Warblers** *P. fuscatus*, eight **Short-toed Larks** and 11 **Olive-backed Pipits**.

From mid October, the airflow shifted around to the northwest, and a very exciting period came briefly to an end, except for rail commuters on 17th, when a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found on Oxted Railway Station platform (Surrey). It was taken into veterinary care and later released.

Fieldfares *T. pilaris* had been slow in coming, but they were to feature prominently in a massive movement of thrushes on 20th October, which was particularly noticeable in the midland counties of England. From Mayfield (West Midlands) 1,700 **Redwings** and over 2,000 **Fieldfares** were reported, with similar numbers of **Fieldfares** from Leicestershire, but these numbers were totally eclipsed by the 20,000 **Redwings** and 10,000 **Fieldfares** in a massive movement over Grafham (Cambridgeshire). Equally impressive were 37 **Shore Larks** arriving at



Hornsea (Humberside) to bring the total reported in the month to over 70.

Another easterly surge arrived on our shores during 25th-31st October, with **Desert Wheatear** on Fair Isle, **Isabelline Shrike** in Humberside, **Pied Wheatear** in **Lothian**, **Dusky Thrush** *T. naumanni* in Dyfed, and **Desert Warbler** in the Isle of Wight (plate 104). Orkney's first **Isabelline Shrike** appeared on North Ronaldsay (what a fantastic autumn that island had), and there was another **Nutcracker**, this time in Kent. A further 21 **Pallas's Warblers** arrived, mainly in eastern Britain, seven more **Dusky Warblers** and four **Red-throated Pipits** (to add to the six earlier in the month), making this October one of the best ever for eastern vagrants.

An area of high pressure over Spain at the end of October brought mild southerly winds across the Continent, and with it a **Little Swift** *A. affinis* to Fair Isle on 1st November, and a **Desert Warbler** to Seasalter (Kent) on 3rd. On this day and the next, you could actually choose which of three **Desert Warblers** to see in Britain, with the earlier arrivals still lingering on at Flamborough Head and in the Isle of Wight.

Colder air spread from the west on 2nd November, lasting until 9th, which surprisingly brought two more transatlantic visitors, a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, the first since 1988, to Bridlington (Humberside) on 7th and a **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* to St Andrew's (Fife) on 8th.

By mid November, many of the new reports hinted at winter around the corner, with about 44 **Shore Larks** taking up residence, ten widely scattered **Great Grey Shrikes**, **Arctic Redpoll** *C. hornemanni* on Fair Isle, and the first **Waxwings** *Bombycilla garrulus*, with singles on North Ronaldsay and Fair Isle on 8th. Two more in Evie on 15th heralded a substantial arrival in Orkney over the next few days, with 23 in Kirkwall, 22 in Stromness and 14 in Finstown. Over the next ten days, reports of **Waxwing** flocks became more widespread, with the largest concentrations in Scotland and the north of England, and, by 24th, 120 had gathered in Aberlady village (Lothian), and there were flocks of 80 in Berwick (Northumberland) and Pitlochry (Tayside) and 140 in Edinburgh (Lothian) by the end of November. Smaller groups were being seen farther south, mainly in single figures, but 25 were at Snettisham (Norfolk) and 15 at Gibraltar Point, both on 21st.

Three more **Desert Wheatears** appeared in November, on 5th at Fleetwood (Lancashire), and on 24th at Dover (Kent) and on Guernsey, but perhaps the most unlikely record, in name at least, was the immature male **Mugimaki Flycatcher** *F. mugimaki* at Stone Creek (Humberside) on 16th-17th November, a remarkable record in what proved to be an outstandingly rich autumn.



Acknowledgments

This summary was compiled from contributions from: B. Condoumi, M. Dryden, J. Holloway, A. Jewels, I. Kinley, E. R. Meek, P. Murphy, R. F. Porter, M. Waller; and published information

including that in the newsletters of the Bristol Ornithological Club, Buckinghamshire Bird Club, Derbyshire Ornithological Society, Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society, Fife Bird Club, La Société Guernesiaise, Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, Leigh Ornithological Society, London Natural History Society, Shetland Bird Club, Shropshire Ornithological Society, South East Scotland Bird Bulletin, Sussex Ornithological Society, West Midlands Bird Club, Cape Clear Bird Observatory, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory and Whitburn Bird Observatory. We are especially grateful to National Bird News, which supplied copies of all the records reported to its phone service 'Twitch-line', and to Birding South West.

Request

We seek to make these quarterly summaries as comprehensive as possible. Please send all reports to us at the address below, or telephone BN on the numbers listed each month on the inside front cover. The next 'Seasonal report' will cover winter 1991/92 (November to March). Records should be submitted now, please.

Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS

Review

Britain's Birds in 1989-90: the conservation and monitoring review. Edited by David Stroud & David Glue. NCC/BTO, Thetford. 1991. 216 pages; 23 black-and-white plates; 12 line-drawings. Paperback £6.95.

The purpose of monitoring bird numbers is to help conservation to be speedy and effective. The idea is that declining species are recognised as threatened. Special studies might be needed to diagnose the cause of declines, but a lot can be inferred from analysis of monitoring data, for instance by relating regional patterns to habitats and their changes. Action plans to alleviate threats can follow from diagnosis. Many of the problems to be tackled are political and economic. Conservation needs to speak with a clear and united voice to government and decision-makers if it is to tackle problems larger than those directly soluble with its own small resources.

Another way to view monitoring is as financial accounts, but for nature rather than money. Conservation aims to use natural resources wisely. Ideally, the capital should survive for our successors while we live off no more than the interest (i.e. sustainable use). It is axiomatic that no one would run a modern country or a business without financial accounts presented each year to the electors or share-holders. Why not for nature? We need simple annual accounts of nature so as to be able to see and resist undesirable trends and object to inadequate policies. Such a process is taken for granted in economic affairs.

Publication of bird-monitoring results is at the moment fragmentary. Individual programmes are reported in various journals, newsletters and one-off publications. This is not satisfactory because it means that the conservation community is failing to give a clear and united message to government and other decision-makers about the state of natural resources. *Britain's Birds in 1989-90* is an important attempt to rectify this problem. It is packed with the most up-to-date information from many different schemes. Although much of the information is published elsewhere, this one book provides an easy single source on numbers and trends. A miscellany of small articles describes various conservation and research projects, which show a strong bias to work conducted or commissioned by the NCC.

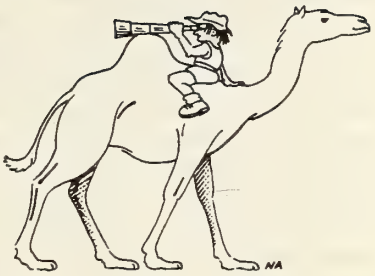
This is an important publication and it is good value. It deserves to be widely read and to be developed further. It shows how much volunteers contribute to bird conservation in Britain and has the potential to become an important annual audit of some key indicators of Britain's nature. I hope future editions will more fully embrace the range of work conducted by the voluntary sector. More thought needs to be given to the political part of the audience, so that a clearer message emerges. Attention also needs to be given to its appearance. At the moment, it looks more solid and unattractive than the content deserves. Ornithologists are used to reading rather heavy material, but better editing and better production is needed to spread the message more widely.

COLIN J. BIBBY

Overseas bird tours survey

J. T. R. Sharrock

Readers' opinions, based on 511 foreign trips with 44 travel companies to 80 different countries



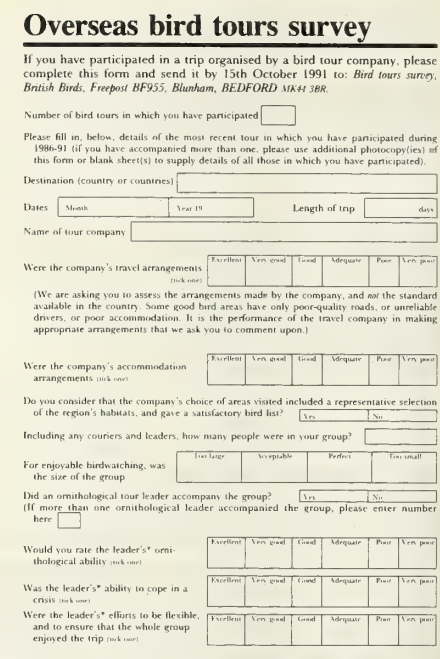
In 1986, we published the results of a survey of the opinions of *British Birds* subscribers of the foreign trips which they had made with commercial bird-tour companies (*Brit. Birds* 79: 622-641). Now, five years on, we have repeated our survey, based on returns of a questionnaire included in the September 1991 issue (see reduced-size version of first page on page 212). Deliberately, to assist comparisons between the two surveys, the questions asked were the same as those in 1986. A few additional questions were included however, as a result of suggestions solicited from the half-dozen largest bird-tour operators.

This report analyses the 511 responses given on questionnaires completed by *British Birds* subscribers*. We do appreciate that this is not a random sample of bird-tour participants. *British Birds* subscribers will include a high proportion of the keenest birders, likely to be ultracritical in their appraisal of any service offered to birdwatchers. Like everyone, however, they will have wanted to enjoy themselves while on holiday and most, though admittedly not all, will have expected more than just a large number of exciting birds resulting in a long 'trip list'. The majority of people on an overseas holiday also want to experience the other attractions of a foreign country: the scenery, the culture, and the food. Participants either being provided with an unexpectedly enjoyable experience, or being subjected to a disastrous trip are both more likely to want to report their praise or their criticism than is the person who merely had a reasonably good time. Our questionnaires gave the opportunity to comment—obviously grasped with enthusiasm—to both of the first two classes: there was abundant exuberant praise and quite a bit of vitriolic criticism (and who can blame someone who has had a ruined holiday for feeling fairly acid?).

*In addition, 105 survey forms were returned by non-subscribers, but have not been included in the survey results presented here. These covered 17 different companies, but the majority related to just four tour operators: BIRDING (29), DORSET NATURALIST (21), LIMOSA (17), and the FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL OVERSEAS (15). We assume (and in two cases know) that these companies distributed photocopies of our survey form to their clients, in a helpful attempt to boost the survey response. For obvious reasons, such forms had to be eliminated, since (1) the survey was intended to relate to *British Birds* subscribers, all of whom fall within a known (high) range of interest level in birds, (2) additional returns for some companies and not others would bias the proportions relating to each company, and (3) it would not be possible to ensure that selected (likely-to-be-favourable) clients had not been differentially recruited, though we do not, of course, suggest that this was done deliberately by the companies named above.

We hope that this report will not only help anyone planning to take an overseas trip with a bird-tour company to choose wisely, but will also help to promote the better bird-tour companies by highlighting their competence and expertise. We also hope that bird-tour companies which do less well in the survey will—rather than making excuses to themselves or to the public—try to learn from the results and spot ways in which they can improve the service which they provide.

Subscribers to *British Birds* range from the average to the most highly skilled among birdwatchers. Those with less competence are unlikely to want to take part in a ten-day (or longer) almost-always-birding overseas trip; there are plenty of wildlife-oriented general holidays for those who are so inclined. The tours which we cover here in these survey results will almost all be those designed for people who want the major (but probably not the sole) purpose of the trip to be birdwatching. Readers should bear this in mind.



Overseas bird tours survey

If you have participated in a trip organised by a bird tour company, please complete this form and send it by 15th October 1991 to: *Bird tours survey, British Birds, Freepost BF955, Blunham, BEDFORD MK44 3BR.*

Number of bird tours in which you have participated

Please fill in, below, details of the most recent tour in which you have participated during 1986-91 (if you have accompanied more than one, please use additional photocopy(ies) of this form or blank sheet(s) to supply details of all those in which you have participated).

Destination (country or countries)

Dates: Month / Year 19 — Length of trip: days

Name of tour company

Were the company's travel arrangements (tick one): Excellent | Very good | Good | Adequate | Poor | Very poor

(We are asking you to assess the arrangements made by the company, and *not* the standard available in the country. Some good bird areas have only poor-quality roads, or unreliable drivers, or poor accommodation. It is the performance of the travel company in making appropriate arrangements that we ask you to comment upon.)

Were the company's accommodation arrangements (tick one): Excellent | Very good | Good | Adequate | Poor | Very poor

Do you consider that the company's choice of areas visited included a representative selection of the region's habitats, and gave a satisfactory bird list? Yes | No

Including any couriers and leaders, how many people were in your group?

For enjoyable birdwatching, was the size of the group: Too large | Acceptable | Perfect | Too small

Did an ornithological tour leader accompany the group? Yes | No

(If more than one ornithological leader accompanied the group, please enter number here)

Would you rate the leader's* ornithological ability (tick one): Excellent | Very good | Good | Adequate | Poor | Very poor

Was the leader's* ability to cope in a crisis (tick one): Excellent | Very good | Good | Adequate | Poor | Very poor

Were the leader's* efforts to be flexible, and to ensure that the whole group enjoyed the trip (tick one): Excellent | Very good | Good | Adequate | Poor | Very poor

**We guarantee not to try to identify the individual leaders, we are assessing whether the tour companies choose appropriate leaders, not whether individual leaders were good or bad.*

The most popular bird-tour companies

Our impression from perusal of the advertising was that there had been a mushrooming of bird-tour companies since 1986. That was not, however, borne out by the survey returns. A total of 44 companies was covered in the completed questionnaires this time, compared with over 60 five years ago. In 1986, 89% of the returns referred to just five companies. There was not quite such a top-heavy loading in 1991, but 76% of the returns related to five companies. There were, however, two dramatic changes, with PEREGRINE HOLIDAYS dropping out of the top five (to twelfth position) and BIRDING rising from sixth to third position, and a coveted place among the 'big five' (table 1). SUNBIRD has risen to take top spot (and would have been further clear of the field if those TOM GULLICK tours which were booked through SUNBIRD had been incorporated rather than considered separately). ORNITHOLIDAYS, on the other hand, dropped from first position (with 33% of the market share in 1986) to fourth (with only 13%).

The companies represented by only a small number of completed questionnaires may often occupy an unjustified high (or low) position in the tables, owing to their small samples. It is valid, however, to compare the relative positions of the most popular companies: those with larger samples (54 to 101 questionnaires). The 'big five' companies, which between them account for over three-quarters of all the bird tours taken by *British Birds* subscribers, are

Table 1. Most popular tour companies

Number of tours for each company for which completed questionnaires returned by *British Birds* subscribers

Position Now	(1986)	Company	No. of questionnaires (1986)	Now
1st	**(3)**	**Sunbird**	**(48)**	**101**
2nd	**(2)**	**Birdquest**	**(66)**	**92**
3rd	**(6=)**	**Birding**	**(18)**	**71**
4th	**(1)**	**Ornitholidays**	**(168)**	**68**
5th	**(4)**	**Cygnus**	**(46)**	**54**
6th	(15=)	Tom Gullick	(4)	14
7th	(13=)	Branta	(5)	13
8th=	–	Limosa	–	10
8th=	(6=)	RSPB	(18)	10
10th	(13=)	Field Studies Council	(5)	7
11th=	–	Eryri	–	5
11th=	–	Hilton Hotels	–	5
13th=	(9)	Caledonian Wildlife	(11)	4
13th=	–	Field Guides	–	4
13th=	–	Gostours	–	4
13th=	(5)	Peregrine	(31)	4
13th=	–	Wings	–	4
18th=	(10)	Birdwatching & Wildlife	(9)	3
18th=	–	Dorset Naturalist	–	3
18th=	–	Gourmet Birds	–	3
18th=	–	Naturetrek	–	3

therefore highlighted throughout the tables in this report by the use of a bold typeface.

The most popular destinations

The 511 questionnaires related to tours to 80 different countries. By far the most popular destination was Spain, followed by Israel, India, Kenya and the USA (table 2a). This is not surprising, since Spain is relatively close by, so is cheap and easy to reach; the cost of accommodation and food is also relatively low; it is in the warmer south, so attractive as a holiday destination; and the birds include spectacular exotics such as Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster*, which are a magnet for North European birdwatchers.

The questionnaire also asked respondents to name the country which they planned to visit next. Since most people are likely to want to visit a different country from that which they went to on their previous tour, it is not unexpected that Spain dropped from first place to eighth (table 2b); there can be little doubt that Spain would be top of the list if those asked were those who had not yet been birdwatching abroad. Top countries chosen for future trips were, however, Kenya and India, with Israel, Morocco and the USSR (now CIS) tying for third place.

Since future participants in bird tours will consist not just of old hands, but also newcomers, the fairest indication of booking intentions may perhaps be obtained by amalgamating the totals in tables 2a and 2b; this suggests that Spain will remain the most popular destination in the mid 1990s, followed by India, Kenya and Israel (table 2c). Naturally, all such predictions have to assume political stability. (It is noticeable that Yugoslavia had been the sixteenth

Table 2. Most popular destinations

Numbers in brackets show (a) number of tours included in this survey; (b) number of respondents naming country in their future plans; and (c) combined totals from a and b. NOTE that respondents are unlikely to list as a future destination a country already visited, hence, for example, the low rating in list b for the top country, Spain, in list a. List c probably provides the best indication of future booking plans (of new as well as repeat participants)

(a) visited during 1986-91	(b) for additional trips in the future	(c) both past and future
1 Spain (56)	1 Kenya (15)	1 Spain (62)
2 Israel (34)	2 India (14)	2= India (45)
3 India (31)	3= Israel (10)	2= Kenya (45)
4 Kenya (30)	3= Morocco (10)	4 Israel (44)
5 USA (25)	3= USSR(CIS) (10)	5 USA (31)
6 France (20)	6= Thailand (9)	6 USSR(CIS) (27)
7 Poland (19)	6= Venezuela (9)	7 Morocco (25)
8 USSR (17)	8= Argentina (6)	8 Thailand (24)
9 Austria (16)	8= China (6)	9 Poland (23)
10= Morocco (15)	8= Costa Rica (6)	10 France (22)
10= Thailand (15)	8= Hong Kong (6)	11= Austria (18)
12= Gambia (13)	8= South Africa (6)	11= Hungary (18)
12= Hungary (13)	8= Spain (6)	13 Gambia (15)
14 Mallorca (12)	8= USA (6)	14 Turkey (14)
15 Turkey (10)	15= Australia (5)	15= Australia (13)
16= Canada (9)	15= Hungary (5)	15= Costa Rica (13)
16= Yugoslavia (9)	15= Madagascar (5)	15= Mallorca (13)
18= Australia (8)	18= Czechoslovakia (4)	18 China (11)
18= New Zealand (8)	18= Namibia (4)	19= Canada (10)
18= Seychelles (8)	18= Poland (4)	19= Sweden (10)
18= Sweden (8)	18= Turkey (4)	

most popular destination, but did not feature at all in future plans—doubtless a reflection of events that were current at the time of the survey.) Since West European birdwatchers are, not unnaturally, mostly concerned with Palearctic birds, it is perhaps surprising to find Venezuela, Argentina and Costa Rica all within the top dozen or so choices for future destinations.

Who goes on bird tours?

At one time, it was considered infra dignitatem for a serious birdwatcher to join a commercial bird tour—this was only for 'dudes'. That attitude soon changed, however, once birdwatchers' horizons extended beyond Europe, and on-a-shoestring, crowded-one-car, rough-it-and-don't-wash expeditions were found to be difficult or impossible. The great breakthrough was probably psychological, when it was discovered by the masses that respected names were appearing on the lists of bird-tour companies' clients, when the only feasible way of getting to Siberia and Mongolia was as part of an organised commercial group. It was suddenly the fashion to take advantage of the benefits of having the grind of pre-tour organisation and the logistics of a trip being carried out not only by somebody else, but by professionals who ensured a worry-free trip during which participants could relax and concentrate on the birding rather than buying food or reconfirming tickets. Those who did so also found that it was far more efficient to travel with an ornithological leader who not only knew the birds of the area, but also where, when and how to find them (thus avoiding wasting time looking in the wrong place or in the

wrong habitat or at the wrong time of day). The modern bird tour was born, with participants ranging from naturalists with an interest in birds to the world's top bird-identifiers; from 16-year-olds to those decidedly long in the tooth; from those who have saved for a once-in-a-lifetime holiday to those who participate in five or six foreign bird tours every year; lords, ladies and riffraff: a wonderful mix, which helps to make every such trip memorable for many more reasons than the birds or the scenery alone.

The bird-tour habit is growing. Not only are more people going on a bird tour, but those who have been once are going again. With the sole exception of those joining CYGNUS, those travelling recently with the top five companies have all, on average, taken part in more tours than was the case five years ago (table 3). The samples are too small to make a full table meaningful, but the range was from an average of 2.0 previous tours for the three NATURETREK participants to 11.2 previous tours for the 13 participants in BRANTA trips.

Table 3. Average number of bird tours in which respondents have participated
Only the top five companies are listed here

Company	Average no. of previous tours undertaken (1986)	Now
Cygnus	(5.1)	4.1
Sunbird	(4.9)	5.7
Birdquest	(3.7)	5.9
Birding	(5.8)	6.7
Ornitholidays	(5.2)	7.6

Length of trip

The duration of any birdwatching trip will depend on a compromise between the time needed adequately to cover the area visited and the time available (or money available) to do so. Some companies specialise in short trips to relatively close-to-home destinations, others in longer tours to distant, exotic locations; and two companies covering the same country may choose to offer holidays of differing lengths.

The average length of trips (table 4) varied from 4.8 days for those arranged by HILTON HOTELS to 27.0 days for NATURETREK expeditions (both figures based on small samples). Among the 'big five' companies, BIRDING clearly specialises in trips of just over one week in duration; most SUNBIRD trips are about two weeks in duration; ORNITHOLIDAYS and CYGNUS both average slightly longer, at between two and three weeks; and BIRDQUEST trips are generally the longest, most being three weeks or more in duration.

Travel arrangements

Trouble-free travelling, with all the worries taken care of by somebody else, is one of the main reasons for choosing to use the services of a commercial company rather than making the arrangements oneself. *British Birds* subscribers were asked to rate this aspect of the tour companies' services on a six-point scale: Excellent (6), Very good (5), Good (4), Adequate (3), Poor (2), and Very poor (1). In general, the bird-tour companies were considered to be doing a

Table 4. Length of trip in days

Company	DAYS <7	7-13	14-20	>20	Av. days
Hilton Hotels	5	0	0	0	4.8
Branta	9	4	0	0	5.9
Dorset Naturalist	0	3	0	0	7.0
RSPB	1	6	3	0	7.7
Sunbirder*	1	12	4	0	8.9
Birding	**6**	**52**	**12**	**1**	**8.9**
Eryri	0	3	2	0	9.8
Tom Gullick	0	10	4	0	10.2
Limosa	1	6	3	0	10.9
Field Studies Council	1	3	3	0	10.9
Caledonian Wildlife	0	3	1	0	11.3
Sunbird	**0**	**43**	**30**	**7**	**12.8**
Birdwatching & Wildlife	0	2	1	0	13.0
Peregrine	0	1	3	0	13.3
Ornitholidays	**1**	**9**	**55**	**0**	**14.4**
Cygnus	**0**	**18**	**35**	**1**	**14.7**
Wings	0	0	3	1	17.8
Birdquest	**0**	**11**	**22**	**56**	**19.8**
Field Guides	0	1	1	2	20.5
Gostours	0	2	2	0	23.3
Gourmet Birds	0	1	1	1	26.3
Naturetrek	0	0	0	3	27.0
Others	1	11	12	2	10.8

good job, with the top 20 operators all achieving an average rating of at least 'Very good'. Of the 'big five', BIRDING, SUNBIRD and BIRDQUEST were all rated as 'Excellent' (table 5).

Although based on very small samples, it may be noted that GOURMET BIRDS and ERYRI topped the table, and that, at the other end of the scale, some of those who travelled with the RSPB and with GOSTOURS were far from happy with the arrangements made on their behalf.

Accommodation arrangements

Most birders do not worry too much about the accommodation, provided there is the chance of a shower or a bath, sufficient edible food, and a bed of some sort at the end of each day. Tour companies obviously to some extent tailor their arrangements to suit the requirements of their clients—up-market, high-cost holidays in four-star hotels, or cheap-as-possible, down-market accommodation for the fanatical dawn-to-dusk brigade. There are, however, plenty of avid birders who also like (and can afford) a bit of luxury when on their annual holiday. With group discounts, it is also often possible for the good tour company with efficient ground agents to book rooms at top-class hotels at a price hardly more (or even less) than that of more mediocre accommodation. In some remote places, of course, and eastern Turkey comes to

*In this table, and some others, the SUNBIRD trips known as 'SUNBIRDER' are listed separately, since they differ significantly from most others: participants' travel and accommodation are arranged, but birdwatching can be in a group with a leader, or individually without a leader, whichever is preferred. Inclusion of the very different statistics with those for 'traditional-style' SUNBIRD holidays would falsify the figures; separation is intended to be helpful to those using these tables for reference.

Table 5. Participants' assessments of each company's travel arrangements
Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	•	•	•	Excellent	6.00
2	Eryri	4	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.80
3	**Birding**	**57**	**12**	**2**	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.77**
4	Sunbirder	12	5	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.71
5	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
6	Limosa	6	4	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.60
7	**Sunbird**	**55**	**22**	**5**	**1**	**1**	•	**Excellent**	**5.54**
8	**Birdquest**	**61**	**22**	**6**	**3**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.53**
9	Field Guides	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
10	**Cygnus**	**27**	**21**	**4**	•	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.31**
11	Wings	2	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.25
12	Tom Gullick	6	5	3	•	•	•	Very good	5.21
13	Dorset Naturalist	•	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
14	**Ornitholidays**	**22**	**26**	**17**	**3**	•	•	**Very good**	**4.99**
15	Branta	6	4	•	2	•	1	Very good	4.85
16=	Peregrine	•	3	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.75
16=	Caledonian Wildlife	•	3	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.75
18	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
19	Hilton Hotels	1	2	1	1	•	•	Very good	4.60
20	Field Studies Council	•	5	1	1	•	•	Very good	4.57
21=	RSPB	1	4	2	1	1	1	Good	4.00
21=	Gostours	•	3	•	•	•	1	Good	4.00
	Others	9	9	5	4	1	1	Very good	4.62

Table 6. Participants' assessments of each company's accommodation arrangements
Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	•	•	•	Excellent	6.00
2	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
3=	Field Guides	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
3=	Wings	3	•	1	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
5	**Birding**	**52**	**8**	**7**	**2**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.49**
6	Field Studies Council	3	4	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.43
7=	Eryri	2	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
7=	Hilton Hotels	3	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
9	Limosa	6	2	2	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
10	**Sunbird**	**50**	**23**	**8**	**1**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.38**
11	**Birdquest**	**44**	**23**	**23**	**1**	•	**1**	**Very good**	**5.16**
12	Sunbirder	5	9	3	•	•	•	Very good	5.12
13	**Cygnus**	**20**	**22**	**8**	**3**	**1**	•	**Very good**	**5.06**
14=	Tom Gullick	4	6	4	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
14=	Dorset Naturalist	•	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
16	Caledonian Wildlife	1	2	•	1	•	•	Very good	4.75
17	**Ornitholidays**	**16**	**25**	**19**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**Very good**	**4.63**
18	Branta	•	8	3	1	•	1	Good	4.31
19	Peregrine	•	1	3	•	•	•	Good	4.25
20	RSPB	2	2	3	2	•	1	Good	4.10
21	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	•	2	1	•	1	Good	3.67
22	Gostours	•	•	3	•	•	1	Adequate	3.25
	Others	4	16	6	2	•	1	Very good	4.66

mind, there is no suitable accommodation available, and everyone has to make the best of what is there. Respondents were asked not to judge the accommodation, but to judge the tour company's performance in making appropriate arrangements.

Top of the 'big five' companies was BIRDING, with a 'Very good' rating only just short of achieving the 'Excellent' accolade which was awarded by the small sample of participants with GOURMET BIRDS (a 100% rating which it can hardly expect to maintain), NATURETREK, FIELD GUIDES and the American company WINGS (table 6). At the opposite extreme, GOSTOURS, BIRDWATCHING & WILDLIFE, RSPB and PEREGRINE did not live up to their participants' expectations (though note the small samples).

Areas visited

Of over 500 tours, only 2.3% did not visit a representative selection of the region's habitats and result in participants seeing a satisfactory number of bird species (table 7). The only companies to fail to satisfy over 90% of their clients were PEREGRINE and RSPB. No fewer than 16 companies obtained 100% approval, with this achievement being especially noteworthy in the cases of SUNBIRD and BIRDING, in view of their large sample sizes.

Table 7. Participants' assessments of whether trip visited a representative selection of the region's habitats to provide a satisfactory bird-list

Position	Company	Yes	No	% Yes
1=	**Sunbird**	**83**	**•**	**100%**
1=	**Birding**	**71**	**•**	**100%**
1=	Sunbirder	17	•	100%
1=	Tom Gullick	14	•	100%
1=	Limosa	10	•	100%
1=	Field Studies Council	7	•	100%
1=	Eryri	5	•	100%
1=	Hilton Hotels	5	•	100%
1=	Wings	4	•	100%
1=	Field Guides	4	•	100%
1=	Caledonian Wildlife	4	•	100%
1=	Gostours	4	•	100%
1=	Birdwatching & Wildlife	3	•	100%
1=	Naturetrek	3	•	100%
1=	Dorset Naturalist	3	•	100%
1=	Gourmet Birds	3	•	100%
17	**Birdquest**	**91**	**1**	**99%**
18	**Cygnus**	**53**	**1**	**98%**
19	**Ornitholidays**	**65**	**3**	**96%**
20	Branta	12	1	92%
21	Peregrine	3	1	75%
22	RSPB	7	3	70%
	Others	27	2	93%

Group size

Birdwatching is usually best alone or in a small group, to avoid disturbance. It is, however, much cheaper to arrange travel and accommodation for a large party. The size of the groups organised by bird-tour companies is, therefore,

always a compromise. Some companies choose to specialise in ideal, small-size groups; others intentionally opt for a larger-than-ideal group size, in order to cut costs and, therefore, prices, and undercut their competitors. In some cases, of course, what was intended to be a large group becomes only a small one because a tour is underbooked. Interpretation of tour-group size is, therefore, not necessarily straightforward.

Group size varied in our survey from the small GOSTOURS (average of 4.5 people) and TOM GULLICK trips (5.0 people) to RSPB (20.7) and HILTON HOTELS (26.6) with hordes (and the specialist SUNBIRDER trips averaging 48.9 people) (table 8).

Table 8. Average number of people (including leaders) on each trip

Company	Av. no. people
Gostours	4.5
Tom Gullick	5.0
Eryri	8.4
Naturetrek	9.5
Branta	10.2
Dorset Naturalist	10.3
Limosa	11.1
Birdwatching & Wildlife	11.7
Sunbird	**12.2**
Field Studies Council	12.3
Gourmet Birds	12.7
Field Guides	13.0
Caledonian Wildlife	13.8
Cygnus	**14.2**
Birding	**14.7**
Wings	14.8
Birdquest	**15.6**
Peregrine	16.8
Ornitholidays	**17.5**
RSPB	20.7
Hilton Hotels	26.6
Sunbirder	48.9
Others	11.9

While a large group can sometimes be a positive advantage in easy terrain where birds are few and far between, such as plains or desert, or on a pelagic trip at sea, where many eyes are helpful, it is a disadvantage in most habitats, and becomes a disaster in enclosed habitats, such as on narrow jungle trails in tropical rainforest. Good companies adjust their group-size ceiling accordingly; bad ones accept every booking, perhaps not understanding that they are dooming many of their clients to a frustratingly birdless holiday.

Among the 'big five' companies, the smallest groups are usually those with SUNBIRD (12.2), and the largest with ORNITHOLIDAYS (17.5).

The opposing attractions of small groups for good birdwatching and large groups for cheapness can be reconciled partially by providing more than one ornithological leader with large groups. The large group still receives discounted travel and accommodation, but can split into two or more subgroups, thus reducing disturbance of individual birds and increasing the assistance which can be given to participants; such subgroups may take vehicles to two

different destinations or be separated by a mere 50 m or so: the effect is the same. Not all tour companies do provide a second leader, however, even with their larger groups, choosing once again to opt for reduced prices compared with their competitors, rather than better service.

The trips with ERYRI provided intimate groups, with the lowest participant-to-leader ratio (3.2, based on a small sample). At the other end of the scale, the average RSPB leader found himself* at the head of a 20-strong group (table 9).

Table 9. Average number of participants per leader on each trip

Company	Av. no. participants per leader
Eryri	3.2
Gostours	3.5
Tom Gullick	4.0
Gourmet Birds	6.0
Sunbird	**6.3**
Wings	6.4
Naturetrek	6.4
Branta	6.5
Limosa	6.5
Cygnus	**7.3**
Birdquest	**7.6**
Field Guides	7.7
Dorset Naturalist	9.3
Field Studies Council	9.4
Caledonian Wildlife	9.4
Birdwatching & Wildlife	10.0
Birding	**10.6**
Ornitholidays	**11.8**
Peregrine	15.3
Hilton Hotels	15.6
Sunbirder	18.8
RSPB	19.4
Others	9.6

Among the 'big five' companies the best ratio was that of SUNBIRD, with 6.3 participants per leader, compared with almost double that for the ORNITHOLIDAYS groups (11.8). The figures suggest that most of the larger SUNBIRD, CYGNUS and BIRDQUEST trips have two leaders, but that rather fewer do in the cases of BIRDING and ORNITHOLIDAYS (compare tables 8 and 9).

What, however, do the participants think of the groups of which they found themselves a part? Those going with four companies considered the group size to be 'Perfect', so congratulations must go to DORSET NATURALIST, BRANTA, NATURETREK and the FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL (small samples, but all happy participants). Interestingly, the average group sizes of these four varied from 9½ to 13, and the participants-to-leader ratios from 6½ to 9. The only companies to field groups which were criticised for being unacceptably too large were ORNITHOLIDAYS (17.5 people, with 11.8 per leader), WINGS (a small sample, 14.8 people, with 6.4 per leader) and, the worst of the lot, RSPB (20.7 people, with 19.4 per leader).

*Currently, most (if not all) bird-tour leaders are male.

The best of the 'big five' were BIRDING and SUNBIRD, with virtually the same degree of approval (yet differing group sizes: 14.7 people, with 10.6 per leader for BIRDING; 12.2 people, with 6.3 per leader for SUNBIRD).

In total, almost 11% of participants considered their group to be too large to be acceptable. Only 0.5% (three people) complained of groups being too small—presumably socially active people who wanted companionship on a trip, or who found that their group contained nobody with the same interests, or contained someone whom they wished would more often get lost in a crowd. Despite these three protests, bird-tour companies clearly need constantly to remember that group size should (costings allowing) be kept to a minimum.

Table 10. Participants' opinions of tour group size

To determine the average, 'Perfect' was rated as 4, 'Acceptable' as 3, and both 'Too large' and 'Too small' as 1

Position	Company	Perfect	Acceptable	Too large	Too small	Average rating	
1	Dorset Naturalist	3	•	•	•	Perfect	4.00
2	Branta	10	3	•	•	Perfect	3.77
3	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	Perfect	3.67
4	Field Studies Council	4	3	•	•	Perfect	3.57
5	Limosa	6	3	1	•	Acceptable	3.40
6	**Birding**	**38**	**28**	**4**	**1**	**Acceptable**	**3.39**
7	**Sunbird**	**43**	**36**	**5**	**•**	**Acceptable**	**3.39**
8=	Gourmet Birds	1	2	•	•	Acceptable	3.33
8=	Birdwatching & Wildlife	1	2	•	•	Acceptable	3.33
10=	Field Guides	1	3	•	•	Acceptable	3.25
10=	Gostours	1	3	•	•	Acceptable	3.25
10=	Peregrine	3	•	1	•	Acceptable	3.25
13	**Cygnus**	**19**	**30**	**3**	**1**	**Acceptable**	**3.20**
14	**Birdquest**	**30**	**54**	**7**	**1**	**Acceptable**	**3.15**
15	Sunbirder	4	10	2	•	Acceptable	3.00
16	Tom Gullick	•	14	•	•	Acceptable	3.00
17	Eryri	2	2	1	•	Acceptable	3.00
18	Hilton Hotels	•	4	1	•	Acceptable	2.60
19	Caledonian Wildlife	•	3	1	•	Acceptable	2.50
20	**Ornitholidays**	**5**	**41**	**22**	**•**	**Too large**	**2.43**
21	Wings	1	1	2	•	Too large	2.25
22	RSPB	•	4	6	•	Too large	1.80
	Others	10	19	•	•	Acceptable	3.34

Leader's ornithological ability

Those taking a commercial bird-tour holiday have every right to expect that an ornithological leader will accompany the trip (unless they are informed otherwise before booking) and that he will not only be a top-class birdwatcher, but will also be familiar with the country being visited and, especially, its birds. Indeed, the leader of a trip is perhaps the single most important element, for a good leader will make the holiday enjoyable and worthwhile whereas a bad one can ruin it.

Some tour companies employ professional leaders, whilst others choose to make use of the services of birdwatchers who, whether amateur or professional ornithologists, are non-professional tour-leaders. The latter may get a cheap or free trip for themselves as 'payment' for leading the tour. In general,

the professional leader not only has the necessary experience to be more successful, but is also less likely to need to satisfy his own personal wishes or interests and is more likely to be dedicated to ensuring that paying group-members are given what they want. On the debit side, maintenance of a team of professional leaders is more expensive for a tour company than the casual use of amateur leaders, as and when required, so the use of professional leaders will increase the cost of a birdwatching holiday.

Some terrible tales are recounted concerning bad leaders, including leaders whose primary concern was their own bird-photography; leaders who had never visited the country before and wasted time visiting the wrong places; and even leaders who were considerably less competent at bird-identification than those they were supposed to be leading.

The leader's ornithological ability was assessed in the survey on the usual rating scale, from 'Excellent' (6), to 'Very poor' (1). Only three companies failed to achieve at least a 'Very good' average rating, and 13 were rated as 'Excellent' (table 11). Apart from those with small samples, the top-rated company was SUNBIRD, with BIRDQUEST close behind and both BIRDING and CYGNUS also meriting that 'Excellent' accolade. Despite the small numbers, it should be noted that those who took holidays with GOURMET BIRDS and PEREGRINE had high opinions of their leaders. At the other end of the scale, their own clients' low opinions of the ornithological abilities of the leaders accompanying tours run by RSPB, DORSET NATURALIST and BIRDWATCHING & WILDLIFE should give those companies cause to reconsider their policies concerning the appointment of these key people.

Table 11. Participants' assessments of leader's ornithological ability

Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1=	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	•	•	•	Excellent	6.00
1=	Peregrine	3	•	•	•	•	•	Excellent	6.00
3	Sunbirder	16	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.94
4	**Sunbird**	**77**	**7**	•	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.92**
5	**Birdquest**	**81**	**8**	**3**	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.85**
6=	Limosa	8	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.80
6=	Eryri	4	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.80
8	**Birding**	**57**	**12**	**2**	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.77**
9=	Field Guides	3	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.75
9=	Wings	3	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.75
11	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
12	Tom Gullick	10	2	2	•	•	•	Excellent	5.57
13	**Cygnus**	**39**	**9**	**3**	**2**	**1**	•	**Excellent**	**5.54**
14	Branta	8	4	•	1	•	•	Very good	5.46
15	Hilton Hotels	2	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
16	Caledonian Wildlife	2	•	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
17	Field Studies Council	2	4	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.14
18	**Ornitholidays**	**25**	**26**	**14**	**1**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.04**
19	Gostours	•	2	2	•	•	•	Very good	4.50
20	RSPB	4	2	1	1	1	1	Good	4.40
21	Dorset Naturalist	•	•	3	•	•	•	Good	4.00
22	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	•	•	2	1	•	Adequate	2.67
	Others	11	9	4	1	2	•	Very good	4.96

Coping in a crisis

Everyone hopes that their holiday will be crisis free. None is, however.

Every trip that ever there was has had a crisis of some sort—double-bookings, overfull hotels, late or absent transport, unreliable drivers, vital habitat loss (lake drained or forest felled), access closed for military purposes or by weather conditions, illness (or worse), injury, political coup, hijacking, war, packed lunches unavailable, documents unstamped, visas invalid, passports lost, money lost or stolen, whole group arrested on suspicion of taking part in a bank robbery. You name it, it's happened. The good group leader, however, acts as a buffer between the crisis and the participants, and, if he is very competent, and also lucky, everyone can go through a holiday believing that there was no crisis. Believe us, that's highly improbable. A small proportion of those returning the questionnaires, however, did not answer the question concerning their leader's ability to cope in a crisis on the grounds that there had not been a crisis. Lucky them!

The leaders for two of the 'big five' companies gained an average rating of 'Excellent': BIRDING and SUNBIRD (table 12). Indeed, the general standard was high, with all but three companies being rated as 'Very good' or better. It surely ought to be of great concern to RSPB tours, however, that the high proportion of three out of their ten leaders were considered to be 'Very poor' at coping with a crisis. On the other hand, participants in trips with GOURMET BIRDS, LIMOSA and ERYI had a high level of confidence in their leaders' abilities in this respect.

Table 12. Participants' assessments of leader's ability to cope in a crisis
Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Sunbirder	12	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.86
2	Gourmet Birds	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
3	**Birding**	**57**	**6**	**4**	**4**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.63**
4=	Limosa	6	4	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.60
4=	Eryri	3	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.60
6	**Sunbird**	**47**	**26**	**4**	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.56**
7	Field Guides	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
8	Tom Gullick	6	7	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.36
9	Caledonian Wildlife	1	2	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
10	**Birdquest**	**50**	**26**	**6**	**8**	•	•	**Very good**	**5.31**
11	Wings	1	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.25
12=	Hilton Hotels	1	3	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
12=	Dorset Naturalist	•	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
12=	Naturetrek	1	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
12=	Peregrine	1	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
16	**Cygnus**	**20**	**21**	**5**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**Very good**	**4.92**
17	Field Studies Council	1	4	2	•	•	•	Very good	4.86
18	**Ornitholidays**	**14**	**30**	**11**	**10**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**4.66**
19	Gostours	1	•	3	•	•	•	Very good	4.50
20	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	•	1	•	•	Good	4.33
21	Branta	1	4	3	3	1	•	Good	4.08
22	RSPB	3	2	•	2	•	3	Good	3.70
	Others	7	11	4	5	•	•	Very good	4.74

Leader's flexibility

So, you want a birdwatching holiday with birding every day from dawn to dusk, and nocturnal trips to look for owls, too, and you have no wish to waste time looking at old ruins or snorkelling over the coral reef or visiting the restaurant reputed to be the best in the Far East? Your newly met companion, however, wants to spend most of the time birdwatching, but also wants to experience the local cultural, architectural, culinary and natural history specialities, as well as the birds, and also likes to have at least an hour before dinner at night to shower, relax and have a drink in the bar. Incompatible?

Every tour group will inevitably include people with differing desires and requirements. A degree of compromise is essential, with both sides willing to forgo their perfect holiday 'menu', in order to achieve a group-size which brings the financial advantages which make travelling feasible. It is the job of the leader to ensure that everyone gives up as little as possible. With care and planning, it is often practicable to arrange an owl-and-nightjar expedition which is optional, so that those preferring an early night can choose to do so; or to split the day's birding into sections, so that anyone wanting to visit a temple, shop at the souk, or swim can do so without missing the whole day's birding. Maybe nobody will opt for 'acting the tourist', but, if the opportunity is offered, there will be far fewer complaints from those who hanker for some time away from constant birding. Such opportunities may come only a few times during a long trip (often it just is not practicable), but the good leader will manufacture them whenever possible and offer his companions the

Table 13. Participants' assessments of leader's efforts to be flexible, and to ensure that the whole group enjoyed the trip

Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Sunbirder	15	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.88
2	Eryri	4	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.80
3=	Caledonian Wildlife	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
3=	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
5	**Sunbird**	**58**	**22**	**3**	**1**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.63**
6=	**Birding**	**48**	**14**	**6**	**3**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.50**
6=	Field Guides	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
8	Hilton Hotels	2	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
9=	Gourmet Birds	2	•	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
9=	Peregrine	1	2	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
11	Tom Gullick	5	6	3	•	•	•	Very good	5.14
12=	**Cygnus**	**24**	**16**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**Very good**	**5.00**
12=	Limosa	4	2	4	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
14	**Birdquest**	**47**	**20**	**6**	**9**	**9**	**1**	**Very good**	**4.91**
15	Dorset Naturalist	•	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
16	Wings	1	1	1	1	•	•	Very good	4.50
17	**Ornitholidays**	**15**	**24**	**14**	**9**	**5**	**1**	**Good**	**4.47**
18	Branta	2	7	•	3	•	1	Good	4.38
19	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	•	1	•	•	Good	4.33
20	Field Studies Council	1	1	4	1	•	•	Good	4.29
21	Gostours	•	1	1	2	•	•	Good	3.75
22	RSPB	2	2	1	1	•	4	Adequate	3.30
	Others	13	7	1	5	1	•	Very good	4.96

choice; the bad leader will not even try to compromise from the course which he decides the group ought to want (or, even worse, which he personally wants) to follow.

The flexible approach by a leader benefits everyone in the group. Even if you are an avid 'dawn-to-dusker', it is better not to have with you all day the person who is hankering to look at the ancient city, or to get back for a late-afternoon swim. It is surprising how easily grumbles about 'too much birding' from the less-keen elements in a group can be silenced by the offer of an optional early return to base; and also surprising how often nobody actually takes up the offer. Flexibility from a leader reduces tension between the elements in a group, and, in the long run, also makes the life of the leader easier.

Enough of theory. What did those going on bird tours actually think of their leaders' efforts to be flexible and to ensure that the whole group enjoyed the trip?

Among the 'big five', SUNBIRD and BIRDING were easily top, and both achieved an average rating of the leaders as 'Excellent' (table 13). Although only small samples, those going with ERYRI, CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE, NATURETREK and FIELD GUIDES also rated their leaders' efforts to be flexible as 'Excellent'.

The five companies using leaders who were rated as 'Poor' or even 'Very poor' should perhaps seriously consider providing better briefing for their leaders, or providing tuition sessions for them (or even appointing different leaders).

Leader's general attitude

Tales, perhaps sometimes apocryphal, tell of leaders ignoring their group while they watch a bird (usually some small, skulking brown job) that they alone want to see; or telling their group to stay back while they spend time trying to obtain photographs; or insisting on early starts or late returns contrary to everybody else's wishes; or denying the opportunity to visit the Pyramids or take a helicopter flight around Everest or take the ski-lift to the top of a mountain because 'We won't see any birds there'; or hogging the best position and the best telescope when a good bird *is* found. Other tales tell of leaders who refused to go birdwatching until after a late breakfast or who paid more attention to their accompanying spouse, children or girlfriend than to their group; we even know of two instances where a leader unsuccessfully combined leading a bird-tour group with his honeymoon. A leader's attitude can, thus, be selfless or selfish, and can vary from excessive zeal to downright laziness and inattention to the needs of those he is meant to be leading. How did the leaders' general attitude rate in the eyes of those they led?

It is good to see almost half of the companies achieve an 'Excellent' rating (table 14). Among the 'big five', SUNBIRD had the most highly rated leaders, but BIRDING also achieved an average rating of 'Excellent', and, despite their small samples, we should also note the high positions of ERYRI, LIMOSA, DORSET NATURALIST, CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE, NATURETREK, TOM GULLICK and FIELD GUIDES. At the other end of the scale, it is sad to see the lowly position of the 'big five' operator that was once the largest and most popular bird-tour company, and the Royal Society

Table 14. Participants' assessments of leader's general attitude
Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Sunbirder	15	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.88
2	Eryri	4	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.80
3	**Sunbird**	**68**	**13**	**3**	**•**	**•**	**•**	**Excellent**	**5.77**
4	Limosa	7	3	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.70
5=	Dorset Naturalist	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
5=	Caledonian Wildlife	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
5=	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
8	Tom Gullick	9	5	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.64
9=	**Birding**	**45**	**19**	**6**	**•**	**1**	**•**	**Excellent**	**5.51**
9=	Field Guides	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
11=	Gourmet Birds	1	2	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
11=	Peregrine	1	2	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
13	**Cygnus**	**29**	**18**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**Very good**	**5.30**
14	**Birdquest**	**56**	**17**	**11**	**6**	**2**	**•**	**Very good**	**5.29**
15	Hilton Hotels	1	4	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.20
16	Wings	2	•	2	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
17	Branta	3	8	1	•	1	•	Very good	4.92
18	Field Studies Council	1	4	2	•	•	•	Very good	4.86
19	Gostours	1	1	2	•	•	•	Very good	4.75
20	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
21	**Ornitholidays**	**16**	**23**	**13**	**10**	**6**	**•**	**Good**	**4.49**
22	RSPB	2	3	1	1	1	2	Good	3.80
	Others	14	6	4	1	2	•	Very good	5.07

for the Protection of Birds is hardly likely to be proud of the even poorer showing of the leaders for the tour organisers which use its initials. Clearly, there is something very wrong if those who holidayed with ORNITHOLIDAYS and RSPB have such a relatively poor opinion of the general attitude of those who led their trips.

In what ways were these leaders' attitudes unsatisfactory? Not surprisingly, more were considered to be 'too fanatical' than 'too relaxed (or even lazy)'. Often chosen mainly for their ornithological abilities, the leaders are inevitably likely to be keener than most of those accompanying them, some of whom merely want 'a holiday with a few birds'. A total of 26 was criticised for being over-keen, compared with 19 for being not keen enough (table 15). In view of this, it is remarkable that one of the 'big five' achieved a 100% record, with not a single leader (on any of 82 trips) regarded as either too fanatical *or* too relaxed. Well done, SUNBIRD! If all bird-tour participants at all levels of competence are happy, the whole trip is likely to be a success for everyone. Almost as highly praised was BIRDING, with just two leaders criticised, from a total of 70 trips. Of the other 'big five' companies, CYGNUS leaders were generally considered to have about the right attitude, but almost one in six of the leaders for BIRDQUEST were regarded as being too fanatical and single-minded, while almost one in six ORNITHOLIDAYS leaders were also criticised, more for being not keen enough than for being too keen.

A new question in this survey asked 'Did the leader show genuine concern for environmental matters and behave appropriately?'. Most (87%) did, but one in eight (12%) did not (table 16). The most noticeably environmentally concerned leaders were those with BIRDING and SUNBIRD among the 'big

Table 15. Participants' opinions of the leader's attitude

Position	Company	Too fanatical	About right	Too relaxed (or even lazy)	% with poor attitude
1=	**Sunbird**	•	**82**	•	**0%**
1=	Sunbirder	•	17	•	0%
1=	Tom Gullick	•	14	•	0%
1=	Limosa	•	10	•	0%
1=	Field Studies Council	•	7	•	0%
1=	Eryri	•	5	•	0%
1=	Hilton Hotels	•	5	•	0%
1=	Field Guides	•	4	•	0%
1=	Dorset Naturalist	•	3	•	0%
1=	Caledonian Wildlife	•	3	•	0%
1=	Gourmet Birds	•	3	•	0%
1=	Naturetrek	•	3	•	0%
1=	Peregrine	•	3	•	0%
14	**Birding**	**1**	**68**	**1**	**2.9%**
15	Branta	•	12	1	7.7%
16	**Cygnus**	**3**	**49**	**2**	**9.3%**
17	**Ornitholidays**	**2**	**57**	**9**	**16.2%**
18	**Birdquest**	**15**	**77**	•	**16.3%**
19	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	1	33.3%
20	RSPB	1	6	3	40.0%
21=	Wings	2	2	•	50.0%
21=	Gostours	2	2	•	50.0%
	Others	•	25	2	7.4%

Table 16. Participants' assessments of the leader's concern for environmental matters

In assessing concern, Yes = 2, Not noticeably = 1, No = 0

Position	Company	Yes	Not noticeably	No	Average rating
1=	Sunbirder	16	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Eryri	5	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Hilton Hotels	5	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Field Guides	4	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Dorset Naturalist	3	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Caledonian Wildlife	3	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Peregrine	3	•	•	Yes 2.00
1=	Naturetrek	3	•	•	Yes 2.00
10	**Birding**	**66**	**2**	•	**Yes 1.97**
11	**Sunbird**	**73**	**8**	•	**Yes 1.90**
12=	Limosa	9	1	•	Yes 1.90
12=	RSPB	9	1	•	Yes 1.90
14	**Birdquest**	**79**	**12**	•	**Yes 1.87**
15	Field Studies Council	6	1	•	Yes 1.86
16	**Cygnus**	**43**	**10**	•	**Yes 1.83**
17	**Ornitholidays**	**55**	**12**	**1**	**Yes 1.79**
18=	Gostours	3	1	•	Yes 1.75
18=	Wings	3	1	•	Yes 1.75
20	Birdwatching & Wildlife	2	1	•	Yes 1.67
21	Tom Gullick	9	5	•	Yes 1.64
22	Branta	9	3	1	Yes 1.62
	Others	23	3	•	Yes 1.88

five'. Leaders for the more lowly rated companies perhaps need to reassess their personal attitudes to such matters as disturbance of habitats, birds or other wildlife, and to ensuring that all picnic waste is retrieved and taken home, or to improve the briefing that they give to members of their group before or during field trips.

Couriers

A locally based courier is compulsory in some countries, and sensible in several more, especially those where English plus a smattering of French or German is insufficient, or where tricky political problems or police regulations may need to be circumvented subtly. In other places, a courier is merely an expensive and unnecessary luxury, or even a liability.

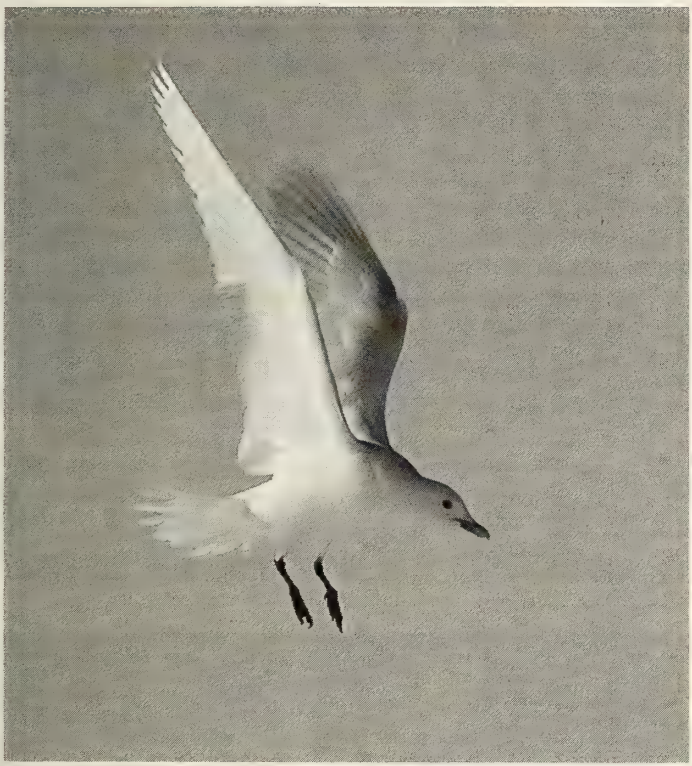
Who is and who is not a courier is also not always clear to participants (or even to a leader); the service of the courier may have been hidden within the charges made by the ground agents, or that helpful person dealing with all the administrative problems may actually be the driver's girlfriend or merely someone who cadged a lift up country. Nevertheless, on the assumption that those taken to be couriers were indeed couriers, 38% of tours covered in our survey were accompanied by a courier (compared with 34% in 1986).

Two companies, GOURMET BIRDS and BRANTA, always had a courier (on the tours included in our survey) and six never did (table 17). Of the 'big five', BIRDING used couriers most often (64%) and SUNBIRD least often (17%). As with several other aspects of the bird-tour business, there are advantages and disadvantages.

Table 17. Presence of courier (or other person, in addition to the ornithological leader, dealing with administrative arrangements)

Company	Courier present Yes	No	% with courier
Gourmet Birds	3	•	100%
Branta	13	•	100%
Caledonian Wildlife	3	1	75%
Peregrine	3	1	75%
Birdwatching & Wildlife	2	1	67%
Naturetrek	2	1	67%
Birding	**45**	**25**	**64%**
Birdquest	**45**	**46**	**49%**
Field Studies Council	3	4	43%
Ornitholidays	**25**	**43**	**37%**
Cygnus	**18**	**36**	**33%**
Limosa	3	7	30%
RSPB	3	7	30%
Sunbirder	5	12	29%
Sunbird	**14**	**69**	**17%**
Gostours	•	4	0%
Hilton Hotels	•	5	0%
Dorset Naturalist	•	3	0%
Eryri	•	5	0%
Field Guides	•	4	0%
Tom Gullick	•	14	0%
Wings	•	4	0%
Others	6	23	21%

1992 BIRDING TOURS



Ivory Gull at the floe-edge, Baffin Island

For our 1992 catalog of over 70 birding tours worldwide please contact Field Guides Incorporated, P.O. Box 160723, Austin, TX 78716. Phone (512) 327-4953 or FAX (512) 327-9231.

field guides
INCORPORATED

Excellence in birding tours worldwide

(D892)



Cygnus Wildlife

Holidays for Birdwatchers 1992

Are proud to be recommended once again by 'British Birds'.

Remaining 1992 programme of escorted birdwatching tours;

PYRENEES 13 days from June 25th £875, **ARIZONA & CALIFORNIA** 17 days from July 20th £1650, **EASTERN HUNGARY** 10 days from August 3rd £850, **NORTHERN ARGENTINA** 19 days from August 9th £2750, **ALTERNATIVE KENYA** 20 days from October 6th £2490, **QUEENSLAND** 20 days from October 18th £3580, **ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS** 22 days from November 1st £2990, **NEPAL** 18 days from November 6th £2190, **SOUTHERN ARGENTINA** 19 days from November 17th £2700, **ETHIOPIA** 17 days from November 20th £1690, **GAMBIA** 15 days from November 22nd £1350 & 15 days from December 20th £1600.

For a copy of our 1992 brochure please apply to:



62948

CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS,
57 FORE STREET, KINGSBRIDGE, DEVON TQ7 1PG
Telephone 0548 856178 Fax: 0548 857537



(D108)

TWICKERS

WORLD

The natural world

ICELAND

One of Europe's last great wildernesses, a stunning landscape of ice and fire and dramatic coastlines. Long summer days plus a wide range of accommodation and prices make Iceland the perfect destination for the holiday adventurer and naturalist.

22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW
Telephone 081-892 8164
24 hour brochure service 081-892 7851
Fax 081-892 8061 ABTA No 60340



(D107)

LIMOSA HOLIDAYS



WITH

CHRIS & BARBARA KIGHTLEY

For the *best* in Birdwatching Holidays at home • Norfolk • Suffolk Coast • Speyside & Sutherland • Scottish Solway • Islay • Anglesey • Central & South-west Wales • Rutland Water • Breckland

. . . and abroad • Belgium & Zeeland • Southern Spain – Andalucia & Coto Donana • Hungarian Hortobagy • Holland – Wild Goose Chase • N. India – Bharatpur, Tigers and Himalayan Foothills

For our 1992 brochure or to add your name to our mailing list for our 1993 holidays (due out early September):
Limosa Holidays, Suffield House, Northrepps, Norfolk NR27 0LZ. Tel: 026 378 8143

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

(D112)

Birding

WITH JOHN & ROBBIE GOODERS

Birdwatching Holidays in Europe

Portugal & Spain ☐ Coto Doñana ☐ Gibraltar ☐ Crete
Czechoslovakia ☐ Cyprus ☐ Poland ☐ Corsica ☐ Hungary

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

... and further afield

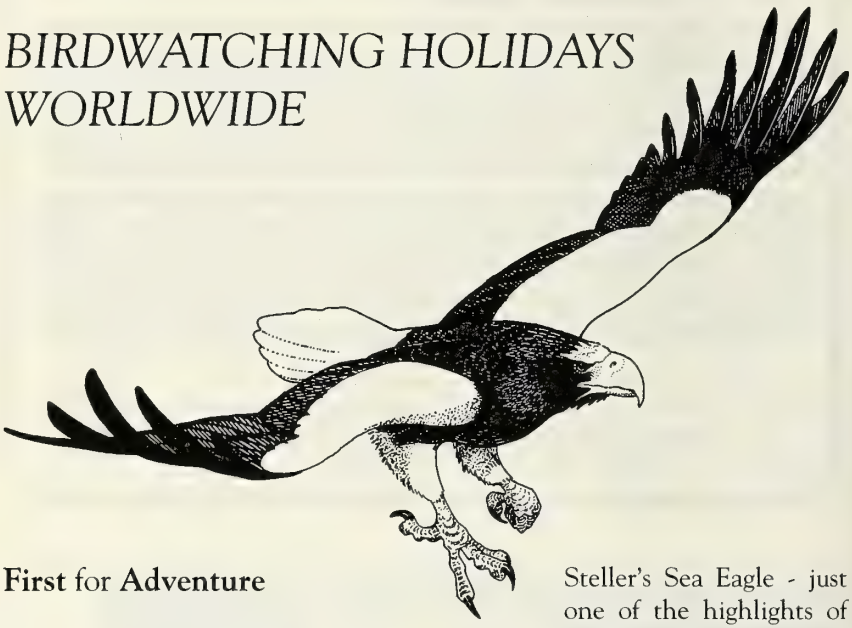
Eilat ☐ Seychelles ☐ Nepal ☐ Kenya
Australia ☐ The Gambia

1992 brochure of the best bird-watching holidays from
Birding, Periteau House, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4EA (0797) 223223

(D109)

BIRDQUEST

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE



Steller's Sea Eagle - just one of the highlights of Birdquest's pioneering travels in Siberia

First for **Adventure**

First for **Birding Expertise**

First for **Specialities**

First for **Pioneering New Areas**

First for **Discerning Birders**

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Discover for yourself why BIRDQUEST are 'First in the Field'

For our brochure please contact: BIRDQUEST
Two Jays, Kemple End, Birdy Brow, Stonyhurst,
Lancashire BB6 9QY. Tel: 0254-826317. Fax: 0254-826780.

(D127)

A good courier can smooth the way, and make life easier for everyone, allowing the ornithological leader to concentrate on bird-finding rather than worrying whether the drivers will turn up on time or the packed lunches be ready by 6 a.m.; a courier who botches such arrangements can make the leader wish he was doing everything himself. Whether good or bad, the courier's services have to be paid for by someone, and inevitably that cost is added to the price of the tour.

The high proportion of 95% of participants whose tours were accompanied by a courier considered that it was helpful to have a courier present (i.e. better to have one than not), and the service provided was rated as 'Excellent' by 55%, 'Very good' by 22%, 'Good' by 13%, 'Adequate' by 7% and 'Poor' or 'Very poor' by only 3%. With 90% of couriers being regarded as 'Good' or better, and 95% being considered helpful, there must be some preference for booking with the companies most likely to employ this assistance for the leader in the day-to-day routine running of a tour (consult table 17).

The trip as a whole

Lots of different aspects affect the success and enjoyability or otherwise of a birdwatching holiday, and we have considered a variety already. It is, however, the general impression at the end of a trip, or how one looks back at it afterwards, that probably matters most. Respondents were asked to assess the trip as a whole, using the usual scale from 'Excellent' (6) to 'Very poor' (1). Only one company got a 100% rave review: all three participants with GOURMET BIRDS considered that they had had 'Excellent' trips; on average, trips with TOM GULLICK, LIMOSA, FIELD GUIDES, SUNBIRD,

Table 18. Participants' rating of the trip as a whole

Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	•	•	•	Excellent	6.00
2	Tom Gullick	12	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.86
3	Sunbirder	14	3	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.82
4	Limosa	8	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.80
5	Field Guides	3	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.75
6	**Sunbird**	**70**	**9**	**2**	**3**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.74**
7	Naturetrek	2	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.67
8	**Birding**	**51**	**12**	**3**	**5**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.54**
9	Wings	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
10	**Birdquest**	**62**	**17**	**8**	**5**	•	•	**Very good**	**5.48**
11	Eryri	3	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
12	**Cygnus**	**26**	**22**	**2**	**1**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.30**
13	Caledonian Wildlife	2	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.25
14=	Field Studies Council	1	5	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
14=	Peregrine	1	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
14=	Dorset Naturalist	•	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
17	**Ornitholidays**	**19**	**29**	**13**	**6**	**1**	•	**Very good**	**4.87**
18	Branta	2	8	2	.	•	1	Very good	4.69
19	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
20	Hilton Hotels	2	1	•	2	•	•	Very good	4.60
21	RSPB	1	3	2	2	2	•	Good	3.90
22	Gostours	•	2	1	•	•	1	Good	3.75
	Others	14	7	5	2	1	•	Very good	5.07

NATURETREK, BIRDING and WINGS were also rated as 'Excellent' (table 18). The 'big five' companies were led by SUNBIRD and BIRDING, but BIRDQUEST and CYGNUS were not far behind.

Counting the cost

It is almost impossible sensibly to compare prices between companies. As we have seen, the length of the trip, the variety of areas visited, the quality of the accommodation, the mode of travel, the professionalism and competence of the leader, the participant-to-leader ratio, the presence or absence of a courier and a score of other variables can make two apparently similar trips to the same country actually very different. We did not, therefore, ask the cost of the trips reported on in our questionnaire, but we did ask respondents to rate them in 'value-for-money' terms on the usual six-point scale.

With small samples, GOURMET BIRDS, FIELD GUIDES, WINGS and LIMOSA came out well, whilst top of the 'big five', rated as 'Excellent value for money' came SUNBIRD tours (table 19). The other four in the 'big five' were assessed on average as 'Very good value for money', with BIRDING and CYGNUS closely rated, followed by BIRDQUEST and then ORNITHOLIDAYS. Only three companies failed to be rated as 'Very good' or better.

Table 19. Participants' assessments of the trip in value-for-money terms
Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	•	•	•	Excellent	6.00
2	Sunbirder	14	3	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.82
3	Field Guides	3	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.75
4	**Sunbird**	**64**	**21**	**4**	**5**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.53**
5=	Limosa	6	3	1	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
5=	Wings	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
7	**Birding**	**50**	**8**	**8**	**4**	**1**	•	**Very good**	**5.44**
8	Eryri	2	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.40
9	**Cygnus**	**29**	**18**	**4**	**1**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.31**
10	Tom Gullick	5	8	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.29
11	Peregrine	1	3	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.25
12	**Birdquest**	**43**	**28**	**14**	**5**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**5.14**
13	Naturetrek	1	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
14	**Ornitholidays**	**17**	**33**	**12**	**4**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**4.87**
15	Hilton Hotels	2	1	1	1	•	•	Very good	4.80
16	Caledonian Wildlife	1	2	•	1	•	•	Very good	4.75
17=	Dorset Naturalist	•	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
17=	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
19	Branta	1	9	2	•	•	1	Very good	4.62
20	Field Studies Council	1	2	2	2	•	•	Good	4.29
21	Gostours	1	2	•	•	•	1	Good	4.25
22	RSPB	1	5	•	3	1	•	Good	4.20
	Others	16	5	3	4	1	•	Very good	5.07

The paperwork

Before departure, participants on any organised tour expect to be told what to expect: the full itinerary, details of the climate, the food, cultural highlights, cultural problems, whether the water is drinkable, currency regulations, what

medical precautions are needed, what clothing will be needed, and dozens of other mundane but important preliminaries. On a bird tour, it is also reasonable to expect a list of the birds that will probably be seen, and perhaps an indication of the likelihood of each.

This seems to be one aspect of the organisation of bird tours on which companies have widely differing standards (table 20). In our 1986 survey, only BIRDQUEST and SUNBIRD (of the 'big five' companies) were rated highly and we passed the advice to the others that an improvement in the quality of pre-tour paperwork 'is a relatively easy and cheap way for all companies to improve their service to their clients'. Strangely, while the best have got better (the almost-identical ratings for BIRDING, SUNBIRD and BIRDQUEST are all improvements on their previous scores, and all are now rated as 'Excellent'), the less good have either not improved significantly (CYGNUS) or have actually got worse (ORNITHOLIDAYS) in this respect. FIELD GUIDES and LIMOSA (both small samples) topped the table, while HILTON HOTELS and DORSET NATURALIST were bottom, producing pre-tour advice regarded only as 'Adequate' by those receiving it.

Table 20. Participants' assessments of pre-tour written advice

Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Field Guides	3	1	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.75
2	Limosa	7	3	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.70
3	Sunbirder	10	6	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.63
4	**Birding**	**49**	**15**	**7**	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.59**
5	**Sunbird**	**49**	**31**	**3**	**1**	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.52**
6	**Birdquest**	**58**	**24**	**10**	•	•	•	**Excellent**	**5.52**
7	Gourmet Birds	1	2	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
8=	Wings	2	•	2	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
8=	Caledonian Wildlife	1	2	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.00
8=	Birdwatching & Wildlife	2	•	•	1	•	•	Very good	5.00
11	**Cygnus**	**13**	**31**	**3**	**4**	**2**	•	**Very good**	**4.92**
12	Naturetrek	1	•	2	•	•	•	Very good	4.67
13	**Ornitholidays**	**8**	**36**	**16**	**7**	**1**	•	**Very good**	**4.63**
14	Tom Gullick	4	3	4	3	•	•	Very good	4.57
15	Gostours	•	2	2	•	•	•	Very good	4.50
16	Branta	1	5	5	1	1	•	Good	4.31
17	Eryri	•	1	3	•	1	•	Good	3.80
18	Field Studies Council	•	1	3	3	•	•	Good	3.71
19	RSPB	1	3	•	4	2	•	Good	3.70
20	Peregrine	•	1	1	1	1	•	Good	3.50
21	Hilton Hotels	•	•	2	3	•	•	Adequate	3.40
22	Dorset Naturalist	•	•	1	2	•	•	Adequate	3.33
	Others	4	14	6	2	2	1	Good	4.45

An evening get-together, to discuss the day's birds and to prepare a daily check list including participants' (as well as the leader's) observations, is an integral part of almost all bird tours (96% in the survey). CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE was the only complete exception, but some tour leaders with RSPB, GOSTOURS, BIRDWATCHING & WILDLIFE and a few other companies also failed to provide this social call-over session for the benefit of participants (table 21).

Table 21. Leader's inclusion in tour of evening meeting to compile daily bird-list

Position	Company	Yes	No	% Yes
1=	**Birdquest**	**92**	**•**	**100%**
1=	**Sunbird**	**82**	**•**	**100%**
1=	Sunbirder	17	•	100%
1=	Tom Gullick	14	•	100%
1=	Limosa	10	•	100%
1=	Eryri	5	•	100%
1=	Hilton Hotels	5	•	100%
1=	Field Guides	4	•	100%
1=	Wings	4	•	100%
1=	Gourmet Birds	3	•	100%
1=	Dorset Naturalist	3	•	100%
1=	Naturetrek	3	•	100%
13	**Cygnus**	**53**	**1**	**98.1%**
14	**Ornitholidays**	**65**	**3**	**95.6%**
15	**Birding**	**67**	**4**	**94.4%**
16	Branta	12	1	92.3%
17	Field Studies Council	6	1	85.7%
18	Peregrine	3	1	75.0%
19	RSPB	7	3	70.0%
20	Birdwatching & Wildlife	2	1	66.7%
21	Gostours	2	2	50.0%
22	Caledonian Wildlife	•	4	0.0%
	Others	19	9	67.86%

Table 22. Participants' assessments of tour summary, bird-list, etc., supplied after the tour

Excellent = 6, Very good = 5, Good = 4, Adequate = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1

Position	Company	Assessments 6	5	4	3	2	1	Average assessment	
1	Field Guides	2	2	•	•	•	•	Excellent	5.50
2	Gourmet Birds	1	2	•	•	•	•	Very good	5.33
3	**Sunbird**	**44**	**32**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**Very good**	**5.31**
4	Wings	2	1	1	•	•	•	Very good	5.25
5	**Birding**	**41**	**9**	**5**	**14**	**1**	**•**	**Very good**	**5.07**
6	Naturetrek	2	•	•	1	•	•	Very good	5.00
7	Limosa	4	3	1	•	•	1	Very good	4.89
8	**Cygnus**	**22**	**13**	**5**	**3**	**3**	**6**	**Very good**	**4.58**
9	**Birdquest**	**30**	**22**	**15**	**16**	**•**	**6**	**Very good**	**4.54**
10	Dorset Naturalist	•	1	2	•	•	•	Good	4.33
11	**Ornitholidays**	**9**	**23**	**15**	**15**	**•**	**4**	**Good**	**4.21**
12	Eryri	•	4	•	•	•	1	Good	4.20
13	Field Studies Council	1	1	3	1	•	1	Good	3.86
14	Branta	•	6	2	•	•	5	Adequate	3.31
15	RSPB	3	1	1	•	1	4	Adequate	3.30
16	Birdwatching & Wildlife	•	•	2	•	•	1	Adequate	3.00
17	Tom Gullick	2	2	2	1	1	6	Adequate	2.93
18	Sunbirder	4	3	•	•	•	10	Adequate	2.88
19=	Caledonian Wildlife	•	•	1	1	•	2	Poor	2.25
19=	Peregrine	•	•	1	1	•	2	Poor	2.25
21=	Hilton Hotels	•	•	•	•	•	5	Very poor	1.00
21=	Gostours	•	•	•	•	•	4	Very poor	1.00
	Others	2	4	5	2	•	15	Adequate	2.61

Most people keep some sort of written record of a trip, but it is also useful to receive details of everyone's observations and experiences in the form of a post-tour summary from the bird-tour company. Time-consuming to compile and needing to be prepared and posted after the tour is over (and long after clients' money has been received), some bird-tour companies obviously give this chore—sorry, service to participants—only a low priority. HILTON HOTELS and GOSTOURS both received rock-bottom ratings in this respect (table 22), whereas SUNBIRD, BIRDING, CYGNUS and BIRDQUEST among the 'big five' all produced 'Very good' post-tour summaries; although only small samples, the reports for FIELD GUIDES, GOURMET BIRDS, WINGS, NATURETREK and LIMOSA suggest that these companies are also taking a responsible attitude. It needs to be noted that SUNBIRD apparently does not provide proper post-trip summaries for participants in the 'SUNBIRDER' groups (in contrast to the good service it gives following its other tours).

Future plans

Only 2% of those going on a bird tour considered that they would have been better off making the trip independently, and, amazingly, among all 511 questionnaires, only one person did not plan to join another bird tour at some time in the future. Clearly, most of the bird-tour companies are doing a good job and providing a service which is appreciated.

Companies do, however, have their supporters and their critics. 'Would you choose to book with them again?' produced a 100% enthusiastic 'Yes' from

Table 23. Participants' future booking plans, revealed by answers to the question 'Would you book again with this company?'

In assessing rating, Yes = 2, Perhaps = 1, No = 0

Position	Company	Yes	Perhaps	No	Average rating	
1=	Sunbirder	17	•	•	Yes	2.00
1=	Tom Gullick	14	•	•	Yes	2.00
1=	Eryri	5	•	•	Yes	2.00
1=	Field Guides	4	•	•	Yes	2.00
1=	Dorset Naturalist	3	•	•	Yes	2.00
1=	Gourmet Birds	3	•	•	Yes	2.00
7	**Sunbird**	**78**	**6**	•	**Yes**	**1.93**
8	**Birding**	**64**	**7**	•	**Yes**	**1.90**
9	Limosa	9	1	•	Yes	1.90
10	**Birdquest**	**79**	**7**	**5**	**Yes**	**1.81**
11	Branta	11	1	1	Yes	1.77
12=	Caledonian Wildlife	3	1	•	Yes	1.75
12=	Wings	3	1	•	Yes	1.75
14=	**Cygnus**	**39**	**6**	**4**	**Yes**	**1.71**
14=	Field Studies Council	5	2	•	Yes	1.71
16=	Birdwatching & Wildlife	2	1	•	Yes	1.67
16=	Naturetrek	2	1	•	Yes	1.67
18	**Ornitholidays**	**42**	**23**	**3**	**Yes**	**1.57**
19	Peregrine	1	2	•	Perhaps	1.33
20	Hilton Hotels	2	1	2	Perhaps	1.00
21	RSPB	3	2	5	Perhaps	0.80
22	Gostours	1	1	2	Perhaps	0.75
	Others	17	4	7	Perhaps	1.36

those accompanying TOM GULLICK, ERYRI, FIELD GUIDES, DORSET NATURALIST, and GOURMET BIRDS. Scarcely less popular were SUNBIRD and BIRDING, with their much larger samples, and even their critics still said 'Perhaps'. Hopefully, the companies listed towards the bottom of table 23 will do some soul-searching to see why their own clients think so poorly of the services they received; the bottom two companies both had half their participants giving an unequivocal 'No' (perhaps better expressed as 'No!') to that key question at the start of this paragraph.

The places that bird-tour participants want to visit next were listed earlier (table 2). The trip intentions listed in our 1986 survey (*Brit. Birds* 79: 639) correctly predicted the top five countries featuring in actual bookings during 1986-91 (table 2a). Those same five (Spain, India, Kenya, Israel and the USA), plus the CIS, Morocco, Thailand, Poland and France, are likely to be the most popular destinations between now and the year 2000.

Summary

The aims of this survey report have been to assist potential bird-tour participants in the difficult task of deciding with which company to book their holidays; to give publicity to those tour companies which have provided the best service to their clients; and to encourage the less-good companies to improve their standards and to indicate which aspects of their business most need improvement. Tables 1-23 all deserve careful perusal, but, to assist readers in making their decisions, we provide a summary of the main assessments in table 24.

Table 24. Summary of participants' assessments (giving equal weighting to each of those in tables 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 & 22)

Position	Company	Sample size	Average assessment	
1	Gourmet Birds	3	Excellent	5.70
2	Field Guides	4	Excellent	5.60
3	**Sunbird**	**84**	**Excellent**	**5.59**
4	**Birding**	**71**	**Excellent**	**5.53**
5	Limosa	10	Excellent	5.50
6	Sunbirder	17	Very good	5.45
7	Naturetrek	3	Very good	5.37
8	Eryri	5	Very good	5.30
9	**Birdquest**	**92**	**Very good**	**5.27**
10	Wings	4	Very good	5.25
11	**Cygnus**	**54**	**Very good**	**5.12**
12	Tom Gullick	14	Very good	5.06
13	Caledonian Wildlife	4	Very good	4.88
14	**Ornitholidays**	**68**	**Very good**	**4.69**
15	Peregrine	4	Very good	4.67
16	Dorset Naturalist	3	Very good	4.67
17	Field Studies Council	7	Very good	4.60
18	Branta	13	Good	4.49
19	Hilton Hotels	5	Good	4.48
20	Birdwatching & Wildlife	3	Good	4.17
21	RSPB	10	Good	3.84
22	Gostours	4	Good	3.83
	Others	27	Very good	4.62

Remarkably, five companies achieved an average rating of 'Excellent': GOURMET BIRDS, FIELD GUIDES, SUNBIRD, BIRDING and LIMOSA. A further four companies were, on average, never rated as less than 'Very good' on any aspect of their tours: NATURETREK, BIRDQUEST, WINGS and CYGNUS. Two more achieved this distinction with the one exception of post-tour-summary paperwork; we assume that they will be intending to improve this aspect of their service after they have read this report, so we feel able to recommend them too: TOM GULLICK and CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE. These 11 companies are, therefore, all now entitled to use our logo in all their advertising and promotion.

We recommend the following companies' overseas bird tours:

(LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

BIRDING
BIRDQUEST
CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE
CYGNUS
FIELD GUIDES
GOURMET BIRDS
LIMOSA
NATURETREK
SUNBIRD
TOM GULLICK
WINGS



Many of the other companies provide a good service (often excellent in many respects) and may provide *you* with exactly the itinerary and sort of companions which *you* will enjoy. It also needs to be noted that the 27 companies amalgamated in the tables under 'Others', because very few questionnaires were returned relating to them, received an average rating of 'Very good' or better in *every* respect except pre-tour advice and post-tour summaries. There are many small companies providing a very satisfactory service. As always, it pays to 'shop around', see what is on offer, compare itineraries and each leader's reputation, as well as prices, and, if possible, ask the opinion of someone who has already travelled with the company concerned. Failing that, this report gives the opinions of several hundred *British Birds* subscribers. If you are equally serious when it comes to your birdwatching, these will be worth heeding.

Finally, wherever you go, with whichever company, have a good trip!

Acknowledgments

Collation and analysis of the survey data were carried out by Bonny Shirley and Richard Shirley. We are also most grateful for assistance with addresses of travel companies given by Keith Betton of the Association of British Travel Agents and John Brodie Good of 'Wildwings'. The biggest debt, however, is owed to all those *British Birds* subscribers who sent us their completed questionnaires and made this survey possible.

Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Appendix. Names and addresses of bird-tour companies

[ABTA members indicated by asterisk*]

ABERCROMBIE AND KENT Sloane Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NS*
ANGLO-ISRAEL ASSOCIATION 9 Bentinck Street, London W1M 5RP
ARCTURUS EXPEDITIONS PO Box 850, Gartocharn, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire G83 8RL
B AND W TRAVEL 22 South Street, Rochford, Essex
BAREFOOT TRAVELLER 13 Millpond Court, Bourneside Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2JA
BARN OWL TRAVEL Derek Tutt, 21 Heron Close, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7EF
BIRDING Periteau House, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4EA
BIRD GUIDES 31 South Park Road, Gatley, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 4AL
BIRDQUEST Two Jays, Temple End, Birdy Brow, Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB6 9QY
BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA Apartado 7911, 100B San Jose, Costa Rica
BIRDWATCHING BREAKS Mark Finn, 26 School Lane, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7AL
BIRDWATCHING & WILDLIFE Chris L. Slade, 8 The Grange, Elmdon Park, Solihull, West Midlands B92 9EL
BRANTA TRAVEL 7 Wingfield Street, London SE15 4LN
CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE 30 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AP
CAL NATURE TOURS SVL7310, Victorville, CA 92392, USA
COX & KINGS TRAVEL St James Court, 45 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AF*
CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS 57 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1PG*
DORSET NATURALIST Jamie McMillan, 9 Little Britain, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1NN
DREAMBIRD SAFARIS 1 Bell Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LS
ERYRI BIRDS Colin Thomas, 24 Tan-y-Bwlch Road, Llanllechid, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
EXODUS 9 Weir Road, Balham, London SW12 0LT
EXPLORE WORLDWIDE 1 Frederick Street, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 1LQ
FALCON TOURS 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia
FIELD GUIDES INCORPORATED PO Box 160723-C, Austin, Texas 78716, USA
FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HW
FLAMINGO HOLIDAYS 59 Hunger Hills Drive, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5JU
FOOTPRINT ADVENTURES 5 Malkham Drive, Lakelands, Lincoln LN6 0XD
GAMBIA EXPERIENCE Julia Pursey, 28 The Hundred, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8BW*
GOSTOURS 29 Marchwood Road, Sheffield S6 5LB
GOURMET BIRDS David Tomlinson, Windrush, Coles Lane, Brasted, Westerham, Kent TN16 1NN
GRAHAM FAITHFULL ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS Tall Trees, Balk Road, Ryhall, near Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 4ET
HILTON HOTELS Birdwatching Events Dept, PO Box 137, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 1DN
HOSKING TOURS Pages Green House, Wetheringset, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5QA
ISLAND HOLIDAYS Ardross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2JU
JUST FLIGHTS 100 London Road, Leicester LE2 0QS
LEARN AT LEISURE 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FJ
LEISURE PLAN HOLIDAYS 4 Barrington Drive, Southport PR8 2PR
LIMOSA BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS Chris and Barbara Kightley, Suffield House, Northrepps, Norfolk NR27 0LZ
MUNDI COLOR HOLIDAYS 276 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SN1V 1BE*
NATURETREK Chautara, Bighton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9RB
NORTHUMBRIA TRAVEL 82 Front Street East, Bedlington, Northumberland NE61 3LT*
ORNITHOLIDAYS 1/3 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, Sussex PO21 2PW*
DAVID OSWIN EXPEDITIONS Millgarth, Kirklington, Cumbria CA6 6DW
PAPYRUS TOURS Roger Mitchell, 9 Rose Hill Court, Doncaster DN4 5LY
PEREGRINE HOLIDAYS 41 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JP*
PINGRUM NATUREWATCH TOURS Woodend House, Woodend, Little Horwood, Milton Keynes MK17 0PE
PORTMAN TRAVEL GROUP St John's Road, Edinburgh EH12 7SJ*
RSPB Dudwick House, Buxton, Norwich NR10 5HX
RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS Achterom 31, 1621 KR Hoorn, Netherlands

SIMPLY TRAVEL 8 Chiswick Terrace, Acton Lane, London W4 5LY*
SPANTREK 79 Egmont Street, Mossley, Ashton, Lancashire OL5 9NF
STEEL'S WILDLIFE COACH TOURS Coachways, Main Street, Addingham, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 0PD
SUNBIRD PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF
SWAN HELLENIC 77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP*
TOM GULLICK c/o Mrs M. Parker, 5 Tile Barn Close, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8LS
TROPICBIRD Dr David Blakesley, 15 Norfolk Crescent, Bath BA1 2BE
TWICKERS WORLD 22 Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NW*
VOYAGES JULES VERNE'S NATURAL WORLD 21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG*
WILDLIFE TRAVEL 7 Crendon Park, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0BE
WILDWINGS 21 Penn Street, Bristol BS1 3AU*
WINGS PO Box 31930, Tucson, AZ 85751, USA
WISH-LIST GUIDE SERVICE Scott Rea, General Delivery, Mission, Texas 78572, USA

Notes



Flight speed of Cormorant On 31st December 1985, as I was driving with my son along the A10(T) from Littleport, Cambridgeshire, towards Downham Market, Norfolk, an adult Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* rose from the River Great Ouse. It flew along the course of the river in the same direction as I was travelling for a little more than 2 miles (3.2km), when it veered sharply and descended to the river. I was hard pressed to keep up with it. As we travelled in close company, however, I was able to judge its speed accurately. Where bends in the road occurred, I had to increase speed to about 63 mph (101 kph) to keep up with it, and when I reduced my speed to 50 mph (80 kph) I quickly fell behind. On a straight stretch I was able to get alongside for several hundred metres, and the Cormorant's speed was a constant 58 mph (93 kph). The weather at the time was cold, with most of the local waters iced over, and there was virtually no wind.

T. B. BAMBER
91 Fornham Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6AS

In his paper on the speed and altitude of bird flight, R. Meinertzhagen (1955, *Ibis* 97: 81-117) listed three records of flight speeds for this species: 27 mph and 35 mph (43 kph and 56 kph), measured by speedometer, the higher speed being of a frightened bird; 45 mph (72 kph), measured by speedometer, with a slight tail-wind; and 60-70 mph (97-113 kph), measured by airspeed indicator, when migrating, regarded as of doubtful accuracy. EDS

Cormorant's method of dealing with large flatfish In early February 1986, at low tide on the River Taw, Devon, I watched an adult Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* bring a large flatfish to the surface. It shook the fish before attempting, unsuccessfully, to swallow it. The Cormorant then swam towards the nearest sandbank and clambered out, still holding the live fish crosswise in its bill; I estimated the breadth of the fish to be about the same as the length from the tip of the Cormorant's bill to the back of its head. On the sandbank, the Cormorant flung down the fish and struck it about four times in the region of the head, before picking it up and trying, and again failing, to swallow it. The fish was once more thrown down and the procedure repeated, as before unsuccessfully. The Cormorant threw down the fish yet again, just as a Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* landed about 5m away and moved towards the fish. The Cormorant became agitated by the gull's presence to such an extent that it delivered three blows to the flatfish and then promptly swallowed it. I noted that its neck/throat became grossly distended as the fish passed down the throat, the head, neck/throat and body being held as erect as possible during swallowing. The Cormorant then remained on the sandbank for over ten minutes. This method of dealing with large flatfish is not mentioned in *BWP* (vol. 1), and *The Handbook* states simply that large fish are sometimes brought ashore.

CHRIS SNOOK
31 Central Way, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 3NF

Food piracy by Grey Herons on Great Crested Grebes On 16th February 1986, at Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, 395 Great Crested Grebes *Podiceps cristatus* had gathered in an area of open water, 80% of the reservoir surface being frozen. Fourteen Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* were standing on the edge of ice in the centre of the reservoir, but one or two would fly out over the grebes, sometimes moving quite fast and flapping vigorously, and swoop at any grebe with a fish. If the fish was dropped, one or more herons would dip to the surface to pick it up, often settling in the water for up to five seconds. Once this had been managed successfully, it seemed to trigger off other herons on the ice and for a few minutes six or eight would circle over the grebes together.

R. A. HUME
15 Cedar Gardens, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1EY

Goosanders stealing fish from Great Crested Grebes On 9th February 1986, at Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, on a very cold, calm day when the reservoir surrounds were under snow and ice, but with the water remaining unfrozen, over 500 Great Crested Grebes *Podiceps cristatus* had gathered near the dam. At one end of this loose aggregation, about 50 grebes were accompanied by 20-30 Goosanders *Mergus merganser* and

several Common Gulls *Larus canus*. The grebes appeared relatively inactive, but, perhaps because so many were present, it seemed that one would surface with a fish every two or three minutes. As a grebe surfaced, with or without a fish, or dived, Common Gulls would swoop towards it, sometimes attempting to take a fish. More interestingly, drake Goosan- ders were doing the same. Once I watched a Great Crested Grebe with a fish in its bill with a 'redhead' (female or immature) Goosander 1m away; the latter took little notice, but an adult drake quickly appeared from several metres away. Drake Goosanders either snatched at a fish in a grebe's bill on the surface, or caused the grebe to dive and pursued it underwater. Unless a grebe surfaced very close by, they would approach it in one of two ways. Usually the Goosander would patter across the surface at speed, using its feet and wings together like a paddle-steamer, either settling near the grebe or going under head-first at a shallow angle, leaving a long V-shaped wave as it continued beneath the surface. From a greater distance, a Goosander would fly towards the grebe: if the latter dived, the Goosander drake would simply splash down and dive immediately, or, quite often, close its wings and dive in head-first at an angle, like a shallow-diving Gannet *Sula bassana* but from just a metre or so high; both it and the grebe would then reappear, a few metres apart, a few seconds later, neither with a fish held openly in the bill.

R. A. HUME
15 Cedar Gardens, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1EY

Goosander spinning On 11th December 1985, at Morehall Reservoir, South Yorkshire, I watched a 'redhead' (female or immature) Goosander *Mergus merganser* spinning on the water at the edge of the reservoir. During my 40 minutes' observation, it spent at least 30 minutes at this particular spot. From when it was first noticed (at 09.20 GMT) until 09.36, it was spinning first in a clockwise and then in an anti-clockwise direction (no longer than 20 seconds in either direction); it stopped on 18 occasions for up to 30 seconds, but always remained in the same spot. At 09.38 hours, it swam close to the bank for 50 m or so, and dived and caught a fish in the normal manner. At 09.48, it returned to the original location and again began spinning, continuing to do so until my departure at 10.00; I made no timings on this second occasion.

While spinning, the Goosander held about two-thirds of its bill length below the surface. On two occasions, it raised its bill high in the air as if swallowing a large prey item, although none was seen. Unfortunately, I was unable to ascertain whether it was foot-paddling to bring prey to the surface or feeding from just below the surface.

This observation recalled those by Dr J. T. R. Sharrock and J. C. Maxwell concerning very similar spinning behaviour by a female Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and a male Shoveler *A. clypeata* (*Brit. Birds* 77: 355; 79: 591), but those species' normal feeding habits are completely different from that of the Goosander. This behaviour is not mentioned in *BWP* (vol. 1).

MARTIN WELLS
715 Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, Sheffield S30 5DQ

Knot with cockle shell attached to leg In September 1985, I visited Snettisham, Norfolk, to photograph wader movements and roosts. Some 30,000-40,000 Knots *Calidris canutus* flew in from The Wash, most of them passing farther inland. One, however, settled and hopped down to the water's edge, when I noticed that it had a cockle shell *Cardium* attached to its leg. I took one photograph (plate 110) before the Knot flew off, with cockle still attached.

G. McCARTHY
53 Brighton Road, Horsham, West Sussex



110. Knot *Calidris canutus* with cockle shell *Cardium* attached to leg, Norfolk, September 1985 (*G. McCarthy*)

111. Dunlin *Calidris alpina* with cockle shell *Cardium* attached to bill (the bird was unable to dislodge the shell, but the cockle released its grip and fell off when the Dunlin took flight), Netherlands, September 1991 (*Piet Munsterman*)



Although it is not uncommon for live shells to become attached to the legs or feet of waders, we welcome Mr McCarthy's photographic documentation of this phenomenon. We also take the opportunity to include a similar photograph of a Dunlin *C. alpina* with a cockle attached to its bill (plate 111). EDS

Purple Sandpipers feeding inland outside breeding season On 5th April 1985, in mild and sunny weather, while driving along an unclassified road between Upper Loch Bornish and Rubha Ardvule, South Uist, Western Isles, my wife and I stopped to examine a flock of small waders actively feeding on a stretch of grassy machair. We were surprised to discover that the flock of 50 consisted entirely of Purple Sandpipers *Calidris maritima*, three Redshanks *Tringa totanus* being the only other waders in the vicinity. The sandpipers were quite clearly picking and lightly probing at the surface of the field, and apparently finding a satisfactory food source. This site was at least 0.5 km from the coast, and perhaps still farther from the much-favoured rocky feeding grounds at Rubha Ardvule, where we had previously encountered over 100 Purple Sandpipers. It is possible that some remnants of this species' typical rocky-coast food were still lying on these fields, which had at some stage been 'manured' with local seaweed (a common practice among machair farmers). There seems to be no reference in the standard literature to Purple Sandpipers feeding away from the coast outside the breeding season, and certainly not in grassy fields.

STEPHEN J. RILEY
25 Abbots Way, Formby, Liverpool L37 6DR

A note on Purple Sandpipers feeding on grass at high tide on the Isle of Man appears below. EDS

Purple Sandpipers feeding by probing in turf At high tide on 12th January 1986, on the north side of Peel Castle, Isle of Man, a strong westerly wind was blowing the sea over all but the highest edge of the rocks. Three Purple Sandpipers *Calidris maritima*, later joined by two more, were walking about on the nearby short, damp turf, probing vigorously in it and sometimes finding something to swallow; a Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* fed with them at one stage. When some people walked past, the birds flew away, but three sandpipers later returned; at first they stood on the rocks just below, but later they fluttered up to resume probing in the water-logged turf. They were still feeding when I left, ten minutes later. I have also observed similar behaviour on two or three subsequent occasions during 1986-91.

ALLEN S. MOORE
Lyndale, Derby Road, Peel, Isle of Man

This is the normal feeding behaviour of this species on tundra and wet moss areas in the breeding season (see *BWP* vol. 3), but is less usual on the wintering grounds. EDS

Exceptionally large roost gathering of Common Sandpipers *BWP* (vol. 3) records a largest roost gathering of Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos* of 100 individuals, in Zimbabwe. On 2nd October 1984, at

Mumiang, on the northeastern coast of Borneo (thus outside the area relevant to *BWP*), I observed a roost gathering of over 2,000 Common Sandpipers. They were very vocal as they flew in, in flocks of up to 150, from the large mangrove and riverbank feeding area at the mouth of the river; they continued arriving after it was too dark to count them. On arrival in the roost area, most bathed before moving to the roosting spot, which was over a sandbar only some 50m away (to which many walked); there, the sandpipers were still very vocal, and roosted packed tightly together. Similar large numbers were observed over a period of weeks, but this was the largest concentration recorded. ANDREW WHITTAKER

Westerley, 5 Bryn Grove, Hest Bank, near Lancaster LA2 6EX

Juvenile House Martin singing On 27th and 28th September 1985, at Brundall, Norfolk, two young House Martins *Delichon urbica* fledged from a nest. One of the juveniles returned on at least three occasions to the nest, where it remained for several hours and was observed being fed. On one occasion, when it was peering out of the nest following a feed, it was seen and heard to burst into typical full House Martin song, albeit for only a short period (perhaps 30 seconds). The nest was not in a colony, the nearest House Martin nests being about 180 m away. B. D. HARDING

6 Braydeston Avenue, Brundall, Norwich, Norfolk NR13 5JX

Professor David M. Bryant has commented as follows: 'It is not unusual for juvenile migrants (as well as some residents, of course) to come into song in autumn. While doing dawn-to-dusk watches at a martin colony near Stirling, Central, Scotland, I have no record over three years of nestlings or juveniles in song, so I am sure it is at least unusual. I do recollect hearing autumn song, however, but not whether it was by a juvenile. Such an observation would anyway be difficult to confirm in a busy colony, since it would be difficult to distinguish singing adults from youngsters in the nest. Lind (1960, *Ann. Soc. Zool. Bot. Fenn.* 21) is quite clear, however, that in south Finland "the young birds sometimes sing very intensively and sometimes for even more than one minute". With regard to Mr Harding's observations, "one juvenile" may have in fact been different individuals making successive visits. Only a juvenile would be fed in this way, so if it sang right afterwards it would be reasonable to assume it was a juvenile. Passing birds, mainly juveniles, commonly enter nests in autumn; also, adults and juveniles at a colony often enter other nests. The possibility of stray birds being in a nest in autumn is therefore quite high; they could even be fed by an adult on a quick visit (martins do make "mistakes" sometimes).' EDS

Feeding interaction between House Martins and Pied Wagtails At the end of August 1985, at Brundall, Norfolk, a family of Pied Wagtails *Motacilla alba* (two adults and three juveniles) appeared on the school playing-field, where they remained until the end of October. Each day, they arrived at first light, spent the whole day feeding, and departed about an hour before dusk to a local roost. On three occasions, I observed an interesting interaction between the feeding wagtails and the local House Martins *Delichon urbica*. In the first incident, a Pied Wagtail, which had been feeding on the field, chased a House Martin at great speed across the field and around the surrounding trees. In the second, a wagtail chased a martin vertically upwards for approximately 6m, before returning to feed on the field. On these two occasions, the weather was fine, and House Martins were feeding at different levels, but not really low. The third occasion provided a reverse situation in the aggressor/defender roles: the

weather was overcast with a low cloud base, forcing the martins to feed low over the field; three times, a House Martin dive-bombed a feeding wagtail in a manner reminiscent of a skua *Stercorarius*, causing it to take evasive action by either ducking or making a short flight. It is interesting to note this apparent competition for food.

B. D. HARDING
6 Braydeston Avenue, Brundall, Norwich, Norfolk NR13 5JX

Dr N. B. Davies has commented: 'Pied Wagtails have been recorded chasing Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis* and Grey Wagtails *M. cinerea* out of their winter feeding territories, so are known to be aggressive to other species which are competitors for food. This, however, is the first record I am aware of where they chased off House Martins.' EDS

House Martins obtaining food from moss on roof On 24th June 1985, at Slinfold, West Sussex, I noticed that two of a flock of 12 House Martins *Delichon urbica* flying low over the church were persistently landing at a specific spot on the Horsham-stone roof. Both were deliberately dislodging large clumps of moss, from which they collected food, and this was taken direct to two nearly fledged young in a nest less than 100 m away. It was impossible to identify the exact nature of the food being collected, but I assumed that flying insects were hatching from the moss. Certainly the food must have been abundant, as 16 feeding visits to the nest were made by the pair in 20 minutes. The weather at the time was sunny and warm; this was, however, the first break in a spell of cold wet weather which had lasted for several days and which may have resulted in food shortages, thus forcing the martins to take advantage of this rather unusual source of food.

S. W. M. HUGHES
6 West Way, Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7SB

House Martins sunning on ground At 14.30 GMT on 8th September 1988, at Slinfold, West Sussex, my attention was drawn to a party of House Martins *Delichon urbica* resting on the cricket pitch. Individuals were arriving and leaving continuously, but at any one time there were at least 80 sitting in a tight group on the centre square. All faced the same way, with their backs towards the sun; some had their wings partially open, and some engaged in occasional bouts of preening. I observed them for approximately 15 minutes, before they were disturbed by a dog. I then inspected the square, which had been prepared for a match: the grass was extremely short, and the ground very hard and warm to the hand. The air temperature, recorded nearby in the village, was 29°C in the shade. Parties of House Martins had been seen sunning on south-facing roofs and walls in the area on previous days, but this was the only time they were seen on the ground. Most references to hirundines sunning relate to 'sun-basking' in hot places on otherwise cool or windy days (see Simmons, 1986, *The Sunning Behaviour of Birds: a guide for ornithologists*). The circumstances of my observations, however, suggested that the House Martins were sunning for a purpose other than thermoregulation. The American literature does contain one similar reference to other hirundine species being attracted to hot tarmac in conditions of high temperature and humidity (*Condor* 65: 438-440).

S. W. M. HUGHES
6 West Way, Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7SB

House Martins associating with hot-air balloon At approximately 17.45 GMT on 4th September 1988, two hot-air balloons flew low over Birstall, north Leicester, in an easterly direction. The sky was overcast, and the balloons had approached very close before I noticed a number of House Martins *Delichon urbica* circling around the top of the nearer one; occasionally, one martin fell back a short distance and then made a deliberate effort to catch up. After a few seconds, both balloons were obscured by a row of houses. A telephone call to the pilot established that this association had occurred on other occasions.

House Martins (as well as many other birds) are known to associate with grass and bush fires, feeding on insects disturbed by the fire. The present observation may be an extension of this behaviour.

D. A. C. McNeil
175 Byron Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 0JN

Dr K. E. L. Simmons speculated that the martins may have been gaining lift, so that they could feed higher. Alternatively, perhaps the martins were taking advantage of invertebrate confusion in the eddies inevitably caused by the passage of the balloons, or were engaged in an avian equivalent of dolphins' behaviour when riding the bow-waves of a boat. We welcome further observations and comments. Eds

Blackbird eating ice-cream On 18th June 1985, at Elsham Hall, South Humberside, a discarded tub of ice-cream lay on a lawn. The contents, which appeared to be chocolate-flavoured, had spilled and were partly melted. An adult female Blackbird *Turdus merula* spent several minutes 'grazing', by tearing up and devouring beakfuls of grass, liberally coated with the ice-cream (fig. 1); this continued until she was disturbed by passers-by. Blackbirds are noted for the catholicity of their diet, but, although they have been known to open milk bottles (E. Simms, 1978, *British Thrushes*), I have been unable to find any reference to their eating either ice-cream or grass, or (as in this case) a combination of these items.

Frederick J. Watson
St Margarets, Brierylaw, St Abbs, near Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5PH

Derek Goodwin has commented: 'The eating of so much grass to ingest just a little ice-cream seems of interest.' Eds



Fig. 1. Female Blackbird *Turdus merula* eating grass and ice-cream, South Humberside, June 1985 (*Frederick J. Watson*)

Golden Orioles drinking in flight On 30th July 1984, by the River Marne at Tours-sur-Marne, France, I noticed a number of Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* about 45m away crossing the river from side to side, mostly drinking by means of a quick dip of the bill (as the accompanying hirundines were also doing). The orioles were all females or juveniles; the only visible male remained high up in the trees and was not seen to fly. The crossing was made at the edge of a small weir, and the birds flew from tall willows *Salix*. Without being able to identify specific individuals, I had the impression that each participated more than once, since, after the activity ceased, the flock of orioles, joined by the male, seemed few in number, perhaps six in all. The cross-river flights and drinking lasted about five minutes, and I did not see the behaviour again during the hour or so in which I was in the area.

JOHN V. MILLER
Old Coxhorne, London Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL52 6UX

David A. Christie has commented as follows: 'K.-D. Feige, in his monograph (1986, *Der Pirol*), stated that the Golden Oriole drinks rarely from puddles on the ground, more frequently takes residual water from tree hollows or drops of dew, and has been recorded drinking raindrops from branches; but drinking in flight is not mentioned. It should be noted, however, that the normal bathing method of this species involves diving down rather steeply from a tree or bush, splashing briefly onto the surface of water and immediately returning to the original perch or one opposite (see e.g. *Brit. Birds* 68: 245-246).' EDS

Rooks feeding on carrion Early on the morning of 29th December 1985, while driving along the M6 from Manchester to the Lake District, Cumbria, I noticed a large number of crows *Corvus* feeding on animal traffic casualties (mainly lagomorphs: rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* or brown hares *Lepus capensis*). Most were Carrion Crows *C. corone*, but some were Rooks *C. frugilegus*. Coombs (1978, *The Crows: a study of the corvids of Europe*) makes no mention of carrion-eating by Rooks; and Hope Jones, in a paper on avian scavengers on Orkney roads (*Brit. Birds* 73: 561-568), recorded only one instance of a Rook feeding in this way, even though Rooks were often seen feeding in fields near the roads he studied. This suggests that such behaviour is quite rare. For several days before I made my observations, there had been very cold weather and the ground was frozen; this would cause many of the Rooks' normal food sources to be unavailable to them.

DAVID M. WILKINSON
35 Meadow Lane, Worsley, Manchester M28 4PL

Crossbill eating slug On 28th June, near the lighthouse on the island of Auskerry, Orkney, we saw an adult male Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* fly up from the ground with a slug in its bill and perch on the roof of a nearby shed. The Crossbill held the slug, which was about 5 cm long, with its feet, and then proceeded to tear off pieces of flesh with its beak and eat them. This sighting, and a flock of 35 Crossbills seen earlier in the day, coincided with an irruption of this species into Britain in June-July 1985. Apart from their main food of conifer seeds, Crossbills have been recorded feeding on a variety of berries, seeds of thistles and grasses, buds, peas, spiders, aphids, caterpillars, small beetles and flies (Witherby *et al.* 1938; Nethersole-Thompson 1975).

Auskerry has neither trees nor shrubs, and it was too early in the season for plants such as thistles to have set seeds. In such an environment, in which food resources for Crossbills were clearly limited, it is perhaps not surprising that this opportunistic behaviour occurred. So far as we are aware, slugs have not previously been recorded in the diet of the Crossbill.

CHRIS J. BOOTH and PETER REYNOLDS
Ronas, 34 High Street, Kirkwall, Orkney

REFERENCES
NETHERSOLE-THOMPSON, D. 1975. *Pine Crossbills.* Berkhamsted.
WITHERBY, H. F., JOURDAIN, F. C. R., TICEHURST, N. F., & TUCKER, B. W. 1938. *The Handbook of British Birds.* vol. 1. London.

Letters

Yellow-legged Herring Gulls in Essex The note on yellow-legged Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* in Essex in 1973-74 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 342-343), detailing the increase in southwest Essex, failed to mention the dramatic change in status in Essex since 1980. Although very few were indeed recorded in Essex between 1973 and 1982 (Cox 1984), a sudden increase in yellow-legged Herring Gull numbers has been apparent since 1985. This has been particularly noticeable along the Inner Thames, from Rainham Marsh to East Tilbury, the larger counts being associated with gull flocks attracted by large-scale rubbish-tipping. Most have occurred between early July and mid October, with a peak usually in August and September. This increase has accelerated in recent years, with counts of over 200 at both Rainham Marsh and East Tilbury during the summer of 1991. Most adults in summer show characteristics of the southern race *michahellis* and largely replace the pink-legged races, which are rare or absent at this time of the year along the Inner Thames.

This increase appears to be real and is not due to increased observer awareness. All Inner Thames sites have been monitored regularly since the late 1960's, yet very few yellow-legged Herring Gulls were recorded until the mid to late 1980s. It is a pity that David Melville was not aware of this or of the detailed results of more recent data-monitoring in the London and Essex bird reports. A paper detailing this change in status of yellow-legged Herring Gulls along the Inner Thames is currently in preparation for *British Birds.*

MIKE DENNIS
173 Collier Row Lane, Romford, Essex RM5 3ED

REFERENCE
COX, S. 1984. *A New Guide to the Birds of Essex.* Essex Bird Watching and Preservation Society.

Death of a Hume's Short-toed Lark The letter from J. C. Wood (*Brit. Birds* 84: 443) concerning the accidental death of one vagrant Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris* is typical of the confused, oversentimental and unscientific thinking prevalent in some quarters.

It is difficult to see how there can be adequate series of skins for study and research unless birds have been, and are being, collected.

The annual death rate of small passerines (33%-66%) is such that whether a particular bird survives or succumbs is of no significance. Vagrants far from their normal range are unlikely to return to the breeding grounds and perpetuate the species. It is the survival of the species, not of individuals, which is important.

The key to bird study is correct identification: authors and illustrators of textbooks, researchers, records committees and observers need to refer to collections. Additions should be made on a selective basis to facilitate study.

There are two arguments against collecting vagrants: first, the fact that the bird is a vagrant reduces the scientific value of the skin, and, secondly, observers may be deprived of the chance of studying the species in the field. There are, however, occasions, albeit infrequent, when the addition of an unusual specimen to a collection available to ornithologists would be of great value.

There are two rational answers to the rhetorical question 'Surely the welfare of the bird comes first?': one is 'No', the other 'Not always'. If, however, the answer is 'Yes', some of the work published in learned journals is far more reprehensible than the taking of an occasional specimen.

J. G. PARKER

Clavering House, Oxborough, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE33 9BL

Breeding record of Icterine Warbler in Yorkshire in 1970 In its report on 'Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1988' (*Brit. Birds* 83: 353-390), the Rare Breeding Birds Panel gave brief details of a 1970 report of breeding by Icterine Warblers *Hippolais icterina* in Yorkshire. It stated that the 'record . . . appears not to have been submitted to any national body . . . but was published by J. R. Mather in *The Birds of Yorkshire* (1986).'

The details in J. R. Mather's book are surprisingly sketchy. On the birds' identification we are told that they had an unfamiliar song, were at first thought to be Wood Warblers *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, but the bill was too large—and not much else. Indeed, the observer admits to being 'completely confused as to the exact species'. Heavy reliance seems to have been placed on the fact that 'The observer is well known to a prominent Yorkshire ornithologist who vouches for his countryside experience and reliability', a sentence which I find unconvincing given the difficulties of warbler identification (e.g. 'The Wandlebury warbler', *Brit. Birds* 75: 183-185).

Other unhelpful features of this record are the anonymity of the observers, the 16-year gap between the event and publication, and the disappearance of the nest when the site was revisited six days later.

I suggest that this record does no more than raise the interesting possibility that Icterine Warblers may have nested in Yorkshire in 1970. Unless further details are available, I do not see how the identification can be regarded as having been established beyond reasonable doubt.

PAUL DOHERTY

28 Carousel Walk, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire LS25 6LP

Habituation I read the introduction to 'Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1989' (*Brit. Birds* 84: 349-352) the day that I returned from leading a splendid bird tour to Kenya. The sentence 'Habituation is the process which enables motorway bird populations to ignore constant traffic, provided that vehicles do not stop', in reference to the problems of human disturbance of rare breeding birds, intrigued me.

It seems to be so, here in the UK, but surely it is not so simple? Some breeding birds—Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* and Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* come to mind—can, I believe, be remarkably tame at the nest (and, of course, we know of birds such as Eiders *Somateria mollissima*, that can be touched while on eggs), while migrant waders such as Little Stint *Calidris minuta* and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* may feed around one's feet.

Try to get close to a Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, however, and it will be off over the skyline while you are still a couple of kilometres away, even if, most likely, it has never experienced a gun or a trap or a threatening gesture in its life. In Kenya, my group and I walked to within 10m of a tree with a Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* in it, and it did not bat an eyelid. Such a diversity of species, large and small, as Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*, Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, Marabou *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*, waxbills *Estrilda* and sunbirds *Nectarinia* pose happily a matter of metres from admiring birdwatchers who openly approach them. Practically everything is tame. I had a *Cisticola* all but on my fingertip (not that I could identify it, even then) and Common Fiscals *Lanius collaris* sharing a bush with me in a storm, but try getting so close to a Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* or a Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* here, or in Spain, and there is no such luck.

It is not *just* a matter of habituation, or current persecution or disturbance. The remote Scottish Highlands eagle may not have been disturbed more than the remote African one, but they have an inbuilt difference in their responses to human approach. Why, I wonder?

R. A. Hume
15 Cedar Gardens, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1EY

Seventy-five years ago...

'The repeated notices of the Common Buzzard having been seen in the east and south-east of England are very gratifying to those who have taken much trouble in preserving the nesting areas of this bird in other parts of the British Islands. It points to a possible extension of range and that at some future date the Common Buzzard may again merit its designation of "Common." . . . These are *Common* Buzzards, not Rough-legged, which are in my experience by far the commoner species in the eastern and south-eastern counties. I think it is to be regretted that localities such as the New Forest should be mentioned as breeding areas, and thus drawing attention to the fact, especially as the New Forest Buzzards have been most carefully preserved, or at least as carefully as possible, during the last thirty-five years by H.M. Office of Woods. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo.' (*Brit. Birds* 10: 295, May 1917).

Mystery photographs



177 The March mystery photographs (plates 52 & 53, both repeated here) show an elongated yet strong-looking passerine with a substantial, bi-coloured bill, very large feet, long undertail-coverts and a long tail. Its plumage is rather nondescript: unmarked upperparts and generally dull underparts with a paler chin and throat. Despite the apparent lack of critical characters at first glance, these features nevertheless combine to narrow the field within the Western Palearctic to Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata*, Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus*, Oriental Reed Warbler *A.* (*arundinaceus*) *orientalis*, Basra Reed Warbler *A.* (*arundinaceus*) *griseldis* and Thick-billed Warbler *A. aedon*.

These larger warblers can mostly be separated by a combination of bill structure and head pattern. Each of the six has a long, deep-looking bill, with Thick-billed Warbler's the shortest and proportionally deepest, and Clamorous Reed Warbler's the longest and, apart from that of Basra Reed Warbler, proportionally the most slender. Great Reed Warbler and Oriental Reed Warbler each has a more massive bill than either Gray's Grasshopper Warbler or Basra Reed Warbler. The bills of these two are of similar length, though that of the latter is noticeably the shallower. Thick-billed Warbler has a bland head pattern, lacking the pale supercilia and dark eye-stripes of the other five, the supercilia of which vary in prominence with posture and state of moult, though those of Clamorous Reed Warbler are generally the least conspicuous. It is unfortunate, however, that the angle of the mystery bird's head in the photographs does not allow the subtleties of its bill structure and head pattern to be appreciated.

The tail is worn, but it is evident that the outer pair of rectrices is shorter than the adjacent pair. Nevertheless, the mystery bird clearly does not possess the strongly graduated tail of Gray's Grasshopper Warbler, nor does its tail look sufficiently rounded for it to be Clamorous Reed Warbler or Thick-billed Warbler. An extra feature of Gray's Grasshopper Warbler is the strongly curved outermost long primary with its dusky-white outer web, which is characteristic of the

genus *Locustella* and which the mystery bird lacks. Furthermore, in the field, Gray's Grasshopper Warbler would be distinguished also by its orange-brown undertail-coverts. Clamorous Reed Warbler and Thick-billed Warbler are ruled out, in addition to tail shape, by the mystery bird's long primary projection beyond the tertials. A close look at the wing reveals that the third primary is emarginated, and that the fourth primary is not. Both Clamorous Reed Warbler and Thick-billed Warbler have the fourth primary emarginated, and this provides a further reason for their elimination. Alan Dean (*in litt.*) has commented that the size, structure and bland head pattern of Thick-billed Warbler combine to give it a special character which, particularly in flight, may give the observer the impression of a bulbul *Pycnonotus* or a Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* rather than a warbler.

We are left with Great Reed Warbler, Oriental Reed Warbler and Basra Reed Warbler. A paper entitled 'Characters and taxonomic position of Basra Reed Warbler' was published in *British Birds* in 1988 (81: 171-178). Readers are recommended to refer to that paper for detailed discussion on the points of distinction between Great and Oriental Reed Warblers and Basra Reed Warbler. Those features of separation that do not assist in the identification of the mystery warbler are size, colour of supercilia, degree of warmth of upperparts, darkness of tail (useful primarily in fresh plumage), throat pattern and, from Great Reed Warbler only, colour of legs and feet. As has been noted earlier, the important character of bill structure is of little use in this instance, though the bill does look proportionally rather deep for Basra Reed Warbler. Comparison of the mystery warbler's primary projection beyond the tertials and its tail length produces a result less in keeping with the structure of Basra Reed Warbler, too, with its proportionally shorter tail. This is a subtle judgment and not easily quantified by hard facts, though measurements show that Great Reed Warbler and Oriental Reed Warbler each has a lower wing-to-tail ratio than Basra Reed Warbler. The dull-coloured underparts are also inconsistent with identification as Basra Reed Warbler, which has comparatively whiter underparts with a cold buffish wash confined to the flanks.

Only the closely related Great Reed Warbler and Oriental Reed Warbler remain to be separated, but the latter's white in the rectrices in fresh plumage, its shorter and comparatively more rounded wings and its greyer legs and feet are of no assistance here. The lack of any quite distinct streaks on the lower throat and upper breast of the mystery warbler, however, does eliminate the Far Eastern bird (which has occurred once in Austria) and confirms identification as Great Reed Warbler.

The mystery photographs were sent to *British Birds* by Commander M. B. Casement of the Royal Naval Birdwatching Society. They were taken in May 1989 by Captain Roy Westwater on board the mv *Sky Clipper* in the western Mediterranean, some 25 nautical miles off the coast of Algeria.

PETER LANSDOWN
197 Springwood, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF2 6UG

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Alerstam *Bird Migration* (CUP). £60.00 ☐

Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP). £22.50 ☐

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP). £75.00 ☐

Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins). £14.99 ☐

Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion). Paperback £8.75 ☐

Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser). £18.00 ☐

Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm). £35.00 ☐

*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50). Paperback £9.50 ☐

Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP). £24.95 ☐

Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser). £49.50 ☐

*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐

Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* 4th edn (Ibis). £19.00 ☐

Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐

*del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx) (due september) PREPUBLICATION OFFER (normal price £95.00). £73.00 ☐

de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐

Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond). Paperback £11.95 ☐

Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐

ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm). Paperback £25.00 ☐

Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser). £27.00 ☐

Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton). Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐

Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm) (DUE JUNE). £27.99 ☐

*Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £68.00 ☐ vol. 2 £68.00 ☐ vol. 3 £68.00 ☐ vol. 4 (DUE SEPTEMBER) PREPUBLICATION PRICE (FULL PRICE £85.00). £72.00 ☐

Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser). £17.00 ☐

Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser). £18.50 ☐

Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan). £14.95 ☐

Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983. £24.99 ☐

Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986. £24.99 ☐

*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00). £10.00 ☐

Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser). £16.00 ☐

Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press). Hardback £22.50 ☐

Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World). £18.95 ☐

Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐

Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP). £19.95 ☐

Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987. £22.50 ☐

Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP). £35.00 ☐

Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet). £35.00 ☐

Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £20.00 ☐

LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm). Paperback £12.99 ☐

Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐

Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988. £22.99 ☐

Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU/OUP). £125.00 ☐

National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984. £12.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xx to complete your order.

British BirdShop (continued)

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser)..... £18.00 ☐
Newman *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa* (Southern Books)..... Paperback £15.95 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm)..... Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (BRITISH BIRDS) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95).... £12.95 ☐
Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver)..... £18.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman)..... £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser)..... £17.00 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.)..... vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP)..... £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens)..... £15.99 ☐
*Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser)..... £22.50 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP)..... £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991..... £75.00 ☐
Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (HarperCollins)..... Paperback £14.99 ☐ Hardback £30.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm)..... Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion)..... Paperback £8.75 ☐
Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser)..... £17.00 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990..... £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser)..... £22.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France)..... £46.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index)..... £6.95 ☐
Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed)..... £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack)..... £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette)..... £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes)..... £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs..... £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING MAY 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.
Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro ac no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address.....

.....Total £..... Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**



114. Mystery photograph 178. Identify the species. Answer next month

First-summer Hobbies in the New Forest

Brian Small



Génsbøl (1987) mentioned that the Hobby *Falco subbuteo* has a 'distinctive' first-summer plumage, but he failed to describe it, merely stating that the majority of such individuals presumably remain farther south during the summer. Observations in the New Forest, Hampshire, indicate, however, that brown-backed first-summer Hobbies reach Britain quite regularly, and G. P. Catley (*in litt.*) has also observed them in Derbyshire. Inexperienced or unwary birdwatchers could perhaps confuse these one-year-old Hobbies, especially in flight and under certain viewing conditions, with first-summer female Red-footed Falcons *F. vespertinus*, which they can sometimes resemble in both plumage and behaviour.

I have watched Hobbies in the New Forest, particularly at Bishop's

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 251-255, May 1992]



Fig. 1. Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (top four) and female Red-footed Falcon *F. vespertinus* (bottom three) in first-summer plumages (*Brian Small*). Top four: first-summer Hobbies showing range of observed variation. Bottom three: female Red-footed Falcons in plumage resembling first-summer Hobby

Dyke, for many years, and have become aware of the existence of distinctive, pale brown individuals in early summer. During each of the four summers 1986-89, I visited the area on up to five days per week in May, June and early July and made detailed notes and sketches of six first-summer Hobbies (one in 1986, two in 1987, two in 1988 and one in 1989). These birds were absent in late July and August, possibly having left the area.

As well as being brown above, these Hobbies were notable for their conspicuousness, being visible, if not active, throughout the day (adults typically tend to be more obvious from mid-morning until 11.30 hours, and then from around 14.30 onwards); often they hunt from or simply rest on prominent perches, in this respect resembling Red-footed Falcons, but remaining 'wild' and not allowing close approach. Their flight was generally low, short and of varying speeds. This 'loafing' behaviour can be explained by the fact that these are non-breeding birds, and are not defending territories.

Description

Fig. 1 illustrates four first-summer Hobbies and three first-summer female Red-footed Falcons.

First-summer Hobby closely resembles juvenile Hobby, but is generally a more washed-out, faded brown above; it lacks the pale buff margins to mantle, scapulars and upperwing-coverts and also the pale trailing edge to the wing. Juvenile Hobby has blackish-brown or blue upperparts with buff feather fringes, and has a prominent pale trailing edge to the wing. The following is a detailed description of first-summer Hobby:

HEAD Forehead pale, varying from pale brown to cream, generally extending as thin supercilia to just behind eye; crown brown, shading darker towards rear; area surrounding eye evenly dark brown-black, blackest immediately around eye, and extending as 'moustache'. At rest and in flight, shows noticeable pale cream area(s) on nape separating crown and mantle, with crown joining the mantle via either broad dark bands on side of neck or a central dark line from crown (see fig. 1). Variability in head coloration great: one individual in May and June 1987 had an extensive pale forehead, minimal 'bleached-out' brown on crown, and a complete pale cream collar (fig. 1, top centre).

UPPERPARTS Mantle, scapulars and upperwing-coverts chocolate-brown, with slight rufous tinge in some lights, upperwing-coverts contrasting markedly with the darker remiges. (G. P. Catley *in litt.* noted a blue-grey tinge to the centre of brown mantle.) Uppertail and rump as mantle, but faint dark barring discernible on outer tail feathers, especially when tail spread on landing. As with juvenile, tail may be tipped pale buff.

UNDERPARTS Base colour shading from an off-white chin and cheeks, deepening through a rich buff on breast and flanks to cinnamon-buff tibial feathers ('pale orangey apricot': G. P. Catley *in litt.*), latter lacking the rich rufous colour of adult. Breast, belly and flanks streaked with brown-black (not black as on adult), streaking variable in width, being generally narrower on belly, and clustered on upper breast to form heavy 'necklace'. Undertail pale rusty-cream, barred brown or black.

BARE PARTS Legs pale yellow-ochre or sandy; eye, bill and cere as on adult, but with bluish basal area on bill.

Discussion

Cramp & Simmons (1980) stated that after post-juvenile moult, which occurs in March or April, the Hobby's plumage resembles that of the

The inclusion of plate 114 and fig. 1 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss–Germany*.

adult; as well as failing to describe the plumage, they show no illustration. Presumably, the first-summer plumage is acquired through fading and wear—it certainly looks like a faded juvenile plumage. There is, however, a possibility that it is a definite plumage phase acquired by moult, as with first-summer Red-footed Falcon. More research, and observations on the wintering grounds, are obviously needed in this area.

Behavioural features and shape are usually diagnostic. The Hobby has long and pointed wings, as opposed to the broad-based, shorter and rather blunt wings of Red-footed Falcon (which, to my eyes, can be nearer to Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* in shape and flight action). Hobby has a dashing flight, catching prey on the wing, compared with Red-footed's more deliberate perching or hovering when hunting. On several occasions, however, I have seen first-summer Hobbies perch in prominent positions, resting or hunting like shrikes *Lanius*, dropping on prey and then returning to the same exposed perch, a behaviour reminiscent of Red-footed Falcon; and sometimes hover briefly before the final 'pounce'.

In addition, my notes made in 1989 on a first-summer female Red-footed Falcon reveal some plumage similarities with first-summer Hobby. This Red-footed's plumage was basically as that of a juvenile, but differed in its paler, slightly greyer, mantle, scapulars and upperwing-coverts, which also had a less 'scalloped' effect (I was surprised at how brown the bird could look in flight); its rich yellow-ochre underside and lesser underwing-coverts, with thin dark streaks strongest on breast and flanks; and its orange-red cere and eye-ring. First-summer Hobbies can show some plumage characters normally associated with juvenile and first-summer female Red-footed Falcon: pale cream forehead, supercilia and collar; small restricted area of brown on crown; limited amount of brown-black around the eye (Hobby will always show a longer moustache); brown back and upperwing-coverts, occasionally with a blue-grey tinge to mantle, and darker, contrasting remiges; and also some barring on the uppertail.

While most birdwatchers would not, given good views, misidentify Hobby as Red-footed Falcon, some caution is required when claiming flight-only views of first-summer Red-footed Falcon. I find it strange that neither Cramp & Simmons (1980) nor Porter *et al.* (1976) mentioned first-summer Hobby, failing even to recognise such a distinctive plumage phase. Harris *et al.* (1989) depicted, and in their second edition (1990) described, first-summer female Red-footed Falcon, but in their illustration the underside is too richly coloured and is not streaked enough.

There is concern that the British population of the Hobby, as a rare breeding bird, may be slightly overestimated, since some of those reported may well be first-summer and thus non-breeding individuals. Spencer *et al.* (1990) stated that reports in 1988 from 321 localities indicated between 101 and 361 breeding pairs in Britain. Presumably, these numbers were inflated by a small percentage of first-summer Hobbies. Perhaps, if observations were made in late July and August, a more accurate assessment of breeding numbers could be attained.

Acknowledgments
I should like to thank the British Birds Rarities Committee, and especially G. P. Catley, for their invaluable help and encouragement with this paper.

Summary
A first-summer plumage exists for the Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, and individuals in this plumage reach Britain with some frequency (albeit in small numbers). Observers need to be aware of such a plumage when evaluating breeding numbers. Claims of first-summer female Red-footed Falcon *F. vespertinus* should eliminate Hobby in this plumage stage.

References

CRAMP, S., & SIMMONS, K. E. L. (eds.) 1980. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. vol. 2. Oxford.
GENSBØL, B. 1987. *Collins Guide to the Birds of Prey of Britain and Europe, North Africa and the Middle East* (revised edn). London.
HARRIS, A., TUCKER, L., & VINICOMBE, K. 1989 (revised 1990). *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification*. London.
PORTER, R. F., WILLIS, I., CHRISTENSEN, S., & NIELSEN, B. P. 1976. *Flight Identification of European Raptors*. Berkhamsted.
SPENCER, R., & THE RARE BREEDING BIRDS PANEL. 1990. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1988. *Brit. Birds* 83: 353-390.

Brian Small, 20 Willow Green, Worlingworth, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7LP

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Churring the night away During this month, Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* will be returning to our shores, and breeding in a variety of places. The last ten years have seen a great change in the available habitat for breeding Nightjars. Traditional habitats have diminished as the result of a variety of pressures, whilst others have been managed for conservation purposes. Two violent storms in October 1987 and January 1990 caused a fair amount of wind-throw damage in woodland, creating potential Nightjar breeding habitat, whilst much of Britain's commercial forest now enters its second rotation, again presenting new potential breeding habitat.

So that we can get to grips with the effects of these changes, it is clearly time for another survey. As the Nightjars return this year, an army of volunteers will be ready to greet them. You could be part of this great event. Taking part in the Nightjar survey will be an ideal way for you to help in the conservation of this truly magical species.

With the RSPB, the BTO organised a pilot survey in 1991, to test our methods and to cover areas difficult to survey. The teams were pleasantly surprised by the number of Nightjars discovered, even though the birds arrived back around three weeks late, the first ones being sighted in the third week of May. The teams also discovered that pre-dawn visits are better for discovering Nightjars than dusk visits, and recommend that torches and compasses are standard equipment for Nightjar surveyors.

You are surely itching to get involved, to go and discover the churring males, and to do your bit for the conservation of this species. If you want to get involved, write to Dave Burges c/o myself at the BTO HQ.

The Nightjar survey is but one of the surveys that the BTO has on offer. This year, the Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* is also singled out for a two-year survey, and there is a new project aimed at assessing the influence of organic farming methods on our bird populations. These mass-participation events are in addition to a number of other long-term surveys. If you want to know more, and the benefits of joining the BTO, write to me at BTO HQ. See for yourself that the BTO offers you birding with a difference.

PAUL GREEN
BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

ICBP news

War damage in Croatia The recent war in (what was) Yugoslavia has had serious environmental impacts, according to ICBP representatives in the country. Access to many areas is still difficult, but it is clear that much habitat has been destroyed, and the presence of tanks and troops has killed or disturbed wildlife in many sites.

Of the country's 57 Important Bird Areas (IBAs—as identified by ICBP in 1989), 19 are in Croatia where the fighting occurred, and several have been badly affected. Of particular concern are Kopački Rit, a world-famous area of riverine forest at the confluence of the rivers Danube and Drava, and probably the most important site in central Europe for the globally threatened White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (15-20 pairs). The area has been occupied by the army for a long time, and many mines have been laid. The Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, also important for the White-tailed Eagle (15 pairs) and Corncrake *Crex crex* (120-200 pairs), as well as over 30 seriously declining species, is almost entirely in the war zone and army activities are considerable. The reproductive success of birds in these areas is likely to be disastrously low if the disturbances continue through the breeding season.

Large areas of woodland in the country (40,000 ha in the Dubrovnik area and 2,500 ha in the Krka National Park, for example) have been burnt. An oil refinery at Sisak was attacked repeatedly, releasing large quantities of oil into the river Sava, which floods important alluvial wetlands.

The war has meant that all conservation activities have ceased, and there is no control over hunting or other human activities inside protected areas. ICBP has expressed concern to the EC and requested that assessments of the damage be made, and assistance to rehabilitate and restore the status of protected areas be given, as soon as hostilities have ceased. Meanwhile, ICBP's IBA co-ordinator in Yugoslavia, Tibor Mikuska, is doing his best to collect information on IBAs and the birds they support, under these extremely difficult circumstances.

GEORGINA GREEN
International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Announcements

'BB' in Thailand 1992 The highlights of the 'BB'-SUNBIRD trip to Thailand during 16th February to 11th March included Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* and Coral-billed Ground Cuckoos *Carpococcyx renauldi* in Khao Yai National Park; Tristram's Buntings *Emberiza tristrami*, prolonged close views of several 'difficult' skulking species such as Streaked Wren-Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata*, Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* and Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*, and both Dark-sided Thrush *Zoothera marginata* and Grey-sided Thrush *Turdus feae* in the northern mountains; and Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata* and Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyi* during the week in peninsular Thailand. Totals of 18 species of thrush/chat and 31 species of warbler included all the usual Siberian winterers, such as Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*, Siberian Blue Robin *L. cyane*, Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*, Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Radde's Warbler *P. schwarzi*, Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon*, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* and Lanceolated Warbler *L. lanceolata*.

To assist with plans for the 1993 *British Birds* trip, provisional enquiries should be made *now*, to Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.

Books in 'British BirdShop' Note the REDUCED PRICE SPECIAL PREPUBLICATION OFFERS in this month's British BirdShop.

**Handbook of the Birds of the World* by Del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal
**The Birds of Africa* by Fry, Keith & Urban

For all book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xix & xx.

'The Famous Grouse' Scotch whisky Christmas puzzle: the solution The out-of-sequence bird in the grid on page xix in the December 1991 issue was KINGFISHER and the last one was SERIN.

P	F	E	E	N	C	E	R
P	C	I	N	S	R	I	E
F	C	U	U	P	E	H	G
N	I	E	S	R	H	C	E
K	U	A	N	H	U	E	S
W	W	A	T	T	F	R	I
O	L	C	L	H	O	R	I
S	O	O	H	T	G	K	N

6	8	5	52	64	47	50	48
4	12	10	2	60	53	63	46
9	14	7	13	51	49	40	58
11	3	61	1	62	59	54	45
15	26	20	25	55	57	41	39
19	24	29	27	30	37	44	34
16	21	31	22	32	56	42	38
18	23	17	28	43	36	33	35

The unique solution is shown here in the numbered grid. The nine birds were Snipe, Puffin, Cuckoo, Swallow, Nuthatch, Kingfisher, Treecreeper, Chough and Serin. All, except Kingfisher, are in current Voous systematic sequence. The first bird (Snipe) was suggested by 'take a shot' in the instructions.

There were even more entries than for last year's Christmas puzzle. The three winners of bottles of *The Famous Grouse* Scotch whisky were Phil Jones (Staffordshire), Bob Scott (Cambridgeshire) and John Simms (also Cambridgeshire).

Additions to the British List The BOU Records Committee has recently accepted the following records, which have also been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee:

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* St Mary's, Scilly, 6th-10th June 1990

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* Kenidjack, Cornwall, 20th-27th September 1990

These two species will officially be added to Category A of the British List upon publication in autumn 1992 of the Seventeenth report of the BOURC in *The Ibis*.

The Sixteenth report, published in April 1992, notes the transference of five species from Category A to Category B (the latter now referring to species not recorded in an apparently wild state in Britain or Ireland since 31st December 1957): Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (one in 1953), Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (last record of apparently wild individual in 1946), Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (last in 1952), Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura* (last in 1954) and Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (one in 1957). Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*, formerly in Category D, is now included in Category A on the basis of the adult male at Irvine, Strathclyde, from 4th November to 28th December 1979. With the rejection of all four British records of the species, the sole remaining accepted record of Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* is the juvenile at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, from 30th September to 2nd October 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 596-600, 649-652). Identification of the adult male Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus auroreus* on the Isle of May, Fife, during 29th-30th April 1988 was accepted, but the species is not added to any category of the British List, since the race concerned, *leucopterus*, is a short-distance migrant, there have been importations of the race in recent years to Britain and elsewhere in Western Europe, and feather wear of the specimen suggested a period in captivity. Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* is retained in Category D after reconsideration of the four 1974-86 records, since the risk of captive origin is considered to be high.

'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB' Please order all your bird books by using the British BirdShop order forms which are included in *BB* each month (pages xix & xx, between pages 250 and 251, this month). All the profits received by *BB* go directly towards funding extra pages, extra photographs and the use of colour illustrations within *BB* itself. By using the POST FREE service provided by British BirdShop, you not only receive the quickest and most efficient mail-order bird-book service, but also help to improve the contents of *BB*, and hold down the subscription price, to everyone's benefit. Thank you for supporting us.

Request

Photographs of 1991 rarities needed Colour prints, black-and-white prints and colour transparencies are needed to illustrate the Rarities Committee's next report. Please send prints or slides (as soon as possible) to Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, British Birds, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. We rely on readers' help, so that we can include the best possible selection.Thank you.

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Magpies innocent Didn't we know it already? Now we have some proof. A newly-published study has failed to find any evidence that recent increases in Magpie *Pica pica* numbers has made any difference, countrywide, to the numbers of small birds. Steve Gooch, Stephen Baillie and Tim Birkhead have analysed the extensive records of bird population levels held by the BTO to come to their conclusions (*Journal of Applied Ecology* 28: 1068-1086). They looked at the records for Magpies and 15 species of songbirds over a 21-year period from 1966 to 1986. Magpies increased by 4%-5% a year on average, with highest rates in the southwest of England and in suburban and scrub habitats. None of the 15 species of songbird decreased; indeed, four increased and, furthermore, the regional success of the songbirds was in no way related to Magpie numbers. In woodland, songbird numbers increased most where Magpie numbers were high and increasing! This important piece of research will help to restore a more balanced approach to the arguments about Magpies and songbirds. Research is continuing where Magpies may be having an effect on local bird populations. If you would like further information and can't obtain the paper, send a large SAE to MAGPIES, BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.

White Storks via satellite Following the exciting results from satellite tracking of albatrosses *Diomedea* and caribou *Rangifer tarandus*, it will be fascinating to see the results of a similar tracking experiment on White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* which is to be undertaken by French scientists based in Strasbourg. We may have to wait, though, as they are hoping to improve the life of the transmitters from a few months to three years. Following individual birds on their migrations and winter wanderings may provide invaluable, and maybe surprising, information which will contribute to the species' protection.

Jamaica's birds The now familiar story of hunting, and destruction of rainforest for agriculture, industry and housing is one that applies to the Caribbean island of Jamaica. Its 25 species of endemic birds are particularly vulnerable. As part of the plan to raise funds to encourage protection and education, Martin Woodcock has donated a painting, to be reproduced in a limited edition of 850 prints, of Jamaica's national bird, the exquisite Red-billed Streamertail *Trochilus polytmus*. Martin, in his letter to *BB* wrote 'I am very pleased to be able to make a contribution towards such a desperately needed programme, especially because of the wonderful birding experiences I myself have had in Jamaica.' If you would like more information, or to buy a print, write to 'Save the Birds of Jamaica Appeal', c/o Superior Creative Services Ltd, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6TS.

R&M Conference 1992 The weekend of 3rd-5th January 1992 saw 375 bird-ringers gathering at Swanwick for the 24th Annual Ringing and Migration Conference. Roger

Beecroft and Stephen Rumsey's Friday evening talk 'With the migrants to Senegal' revealed a country where literally millions of European summer visitors and passage migrants spend the winter. Large-scale ringing has recently begun and a good sales job was going on to persuade more ringers to go there and help.

The Saturday morning ringers' AGM dealt with matters of specific concern to ringers and included the information that the ringing scheme costs about £300,000 per annum to run. Funds come from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and from the BTO itself, but the ringers' own contribution is very substantial, through permit fees, purchase of rings and other sales. Value for money is difficult to measure, but the remainder of the conference gave ample evidence of the quantity and quality of much of the data that ringers generate.

Rhys Green kicked off with a talk, notable for its clarity of presentation, on the Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, showing how vital conservation management was being aided by ringing and radio-tracking. Those well-known Dipper-enthusiasts, Stephanie Tyler and Steve Ormerod, then told us about Welsh Dippers *Cinclus cinclus*, followed by an analysis of ringing recoveries of Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus*, by Patrick Thompson and Will Peach. Will then combined with Stephen Baillie to describe how populations of migrant warblers may be regulated.

After tea came two short talks, on numbers and biometrics of Melodious *Hippolais polyglotta* and Icterine Warblers *H. icterina* at British Bird Observatories, by Mick Rogers and Dave Okill (standing in for Paul Harvey), respectively. I was not alone in thinking that a comparative study might have been a better approach. The day was concluded by Fernando Spina from Italy, describing the ambitious and very successful, project to man ringing stations in April-May on small islands off the west coast of Italy to follow the course of small migrants as they cross the Mediterranean and head north into Europe.

We were all sad that illness prevented W. D. Campbell from regaling us on 'Birds, Bugs and Berries' on the Saturday evening. That was not the only blight cast over the evening's proceedings. A most shame-faced manager of the Conference Centre confessed that the draught bitter had run out, through an ordering cock-up. I do not know what profits he lost as a consequence, but the local pubs must have felt that every one of their prayers for a prosperous New Year had been answered.

Back to work on Sunday morning with equally fascinating accounts of the results of marking Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* in Lancashire, Iceland and Greenland from John Turner and marking Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* in Arctic Canada from Terry Carruthers. Oh, to be in the Arctic, when the geese are there!

Nigel Clark had a grim tale of the mortality suffered by Redshanks *Tringa totanus* in the Wash during severe weather in February 1991. This cold spell was long enough to kill at least half the wintering Redshanks in the Wash, yet was apparently not long enough to trigger a ban on foreshore shooting. An unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The final talks were on Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in Dorset and on Dotterels *Charadrius morinellus* in Scotland. Brian Cresswell has shown by radio-tracking that Nightjars may hunt several kilometres from their nest site and use very different habitats. Philip Whitfield explained some of the difficulties in censusing Dotterels and how the females indulge in polyandry. Ringing has revealed rapid movements across the North Sea, raising the possibility of Dotterels breeding in Scotland and in Norway in the same year.

And so we dispersed, old acquaintances renewed and new information absorbed, along with perhaps not quite as much bitter as usual. (*MAO*)

Dr Boonsong Lekagul One of the pioneers of conservation in Asia, Dr Boonsong died on 10th February 1992 at the age of 85. He had been severely incapacitated ever since May 1985 when he suffered a massive stroke. Though most familiar to readers of *British Birds* in connection with the field guides to Thai birds which bear his name, Dr Boonsong was a natural historian of the old school rather than an ornithologist. Large mammals, especially the wild cattle, were his first love, though in later years he also became deeply interested in bats, at least one of which, *Hipposideros lekaguli* (Dr Boonsong's roundleaf bat), bears his name. He tirelessly promoted conservation among his own countrymen and successfully fought for the passage of Thailand's first wildlife and national parks legislation, which led to the creation of Khao Yai National Park. He was unstinting in the help he gave to the

Request

Photographs of 1991 rarities needed Colour prints, black-and-white prints and colour transparencies are needed to illustrate the Rarities Committee's next report. Please send prints or slides (as soon as possible) to Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, British Birds, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. We rely on readers' help, so that we can include the best possible selection.Thank you.

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Magpies innocent Didn't we know it already? Now we have some proof. A newly-published study has failed to find any evidence that recent increases in Magpie *Pica pica* numbers has made any difference, countrywide, to the numbers of small birds. Steve Gooch, Stephen Baillie and Tim Birkhead have analysed the extensive records of bird population levels held by the BTO to come to their conclusions (*Journal of Applied Ecology* 28: 1068-1086). They looked at the records for Magpies and 15 species of songbirds over a 21-year period from 1966 to 1986. Magpies increased by 4%-5% a year on average, with highest rates in the southwest of England and in suburban and scrub habitats. None of the 15 species of songbird decreased; indeed, four increased and, furthermore, the regional success of the songbirds was in no way related to Magpie numbers. In woodland, songbird numbers increased most where Magpie numbers were high and increasing! This important piece of research will help to restore a more balanced approach to the arguments about Magpies and songbirds. Research is continuing where Magpies may be having an effect on local bird populations. If you would like further information and can't obtain the paper, send a large SAE to MAGPIES, BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.

White Storks via satellite Following the exciting results from satellite tracking of albatrosses *Diomedea* and caribou *Rangifer tarandus*, it will be fascinating to see the results of a similar tracking experiment on White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* which is to be undertaken by French scientists based in Strasbourg. We may have to wait, though, as they are hoping to improve the life of the transmitters from a few months to three years. Following individual birds on their migrations and winter wanderings may provide invaluable, and maybe surprising, information which will contribute to the species' protection.

Jamaica's birds The now familiar story of hunting, and destruction of rainforest for agriculture, industry and housing is one that applies to the Caribbean island of Jamaica. Its 25 species of endemic birds are particularly vulnerable. As part of the plan to raise funds to encourage protection and education, Martin Woodcock has donated a painting, to be reproduced in a limited edition of 850 prints, of Jamaica's national bird, the exquisite Red-billed Streamertail *Trochilus polytmus*. Martin, in his letter to *BB* wrote 'I am very pleased to be able to make a contribution towards such a desperately needed programme, especially because of the wonderful birding experiences I myself have had in Jamaica.' If you would like more information, or to buy a print, write to 'Save the Birds of Jamaica Appeal', c/o Superior Creative Services Ltd, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6TS.

R&M Conference 1992 The weekend of 3rd-5th January 1992 saw 375 bird-ringers gathering at Swanwick for the 24th Annual Ringing and Migration Conference. Roger

Beecroft and Stephen Rumsey's Friday evening talk 'With the migrants to Senegal' revealed a country where literally millions of European summer visitors and passage migrants spend the winter. Large-scale ringing has recently begun and a good sales job was going on to persuade more ringers to go there and help.

The Saturday morning ringers' AGM dealt with matters of specific concern to ringers and included the information that the ringing scheme costs about £300,000 per annum to run. Funds come from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and from the BTO itself, but the ringers' own contribution is very substantial, through permit fees, purchase of rings and other sales. Value for money is difficult to measure, but the remainder of the conference gave ample evidence of the quantity and quality of much of the data that ringers generate.

Rhys Green kicked off with a talk, notable for its clarity of presentation, on the Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, showing how vital conservation management was being aided by ringing and radio-tracking. Those well-known Dipper-enthusiasts, Stephanie Tyler and Steve Ormerod, then told us about Welsh Dippers *Cinclus cinclus*, followed by an analysis of ringing recoveries of Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus*, by Patrick Thompson and Will Peach. Will then combined with Stephen Baillie to describe how populations of migrant warblers may be regulated.

After tea came two short talks, on numbers and biometrics of Melodious *Hippolais polyglotta* and Icterine Warblers *H. icterina* at British Bird Observatories, by Mick Rogers and Dave Okill (standing in for Paul Harvey), respectively. I was not alone in thinking that a comparative study might have been a better approach. The day was concluded by Fernando Spina from Italy, describing the ambitious and very successful, project to man ringing stations in April-May on small islands off the west coast of Italy to follow the course of small migrants as they cross the Mediterranean and head north into Europe.

We were all sad that illness prevented W. D. Campbell from regaling us on 'Birds, Bugs and Berries' on the Saturday evening. That was not the only blight cast over the evening's proceedings. A most shame-faced manager of the Conference Centre confessed that the draught bitter had run out, through an ordering cock-up. I do not know what profits he lost as a consequence, but the local pubs must have felt that every one of their prayers for a prosperous New Year had been answered.

Back to work on Sunday morning with equally fascinating accounts of the results of marking Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* in Lancashire, Iceland and Greenland from John Turner and marking Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* in Arctic Canada from Terry Carruthers. Oh, to be in the Arctic, when the geese are there!

Nigel Clark had a grim tale of the mortality suffered by Redshanks *Tringa totanus* in the Wash during severe weather in February 1991. This cold spell was long enough to kill at least half the wintering Redshanks in the Wash, yet was apparently not long enough to trigger a ban on foreshore shooting. An unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The final talks were on Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in Dorset and on Dotterels *Charadrius morinellus* in Scotland. Brian Cresswell has shown by radio-tracking that Nightjars may hunt several kilometres from their nest site and use very different habitats. Philip Whitfield explained some of the difficulties in censusing Dotterels and how the females indulge in polyandry. Ringing has revealed rapid movements across the North Sea, raising the possibility of Dotterels breeding in Scotland and in Norway in the same year.

And so we dispersed, old acquaintances renewed and new information absorbed, along with perhaps not quite as much bitter as usual. (*MAO*)

Dr Boonsong Lekagul One of the pioneers of conservation in Asia, Dr Boonsong died on 10th February 1992 at the age of 85. He had been severely incapacitated ever since May 1985 when he suffered a massive stroke. Though most familiar to readers of *British Birds* in connection with the field guides to Thai birds which bear his name, Dr Boonsong was a natural historian of the old school rather than an ornithologist. Large mammals, especially the wild cattle, were his first love, though in later years he also became deeply interested in bats, at least one of which, *Hipposideros lekaguli* (Dr Boonsong's roundleaf bat), bears his name. He tirelessly promoted conservation among his own countrymen and successfully fought for the passage of Thailand's first wildlife and national parks legislation, which led to the creation of Khao Yai National Park. He was unstinting in the help he gave to the

many foreign biologists and other visitors who called on him, and his dusty, wood-panelled study, lined with books and animal specimens, was an essential first stop in Bangkok for many car-loads of British birdwatchers during the late 1970s and early 1980s. (*Philip Round*)

European Bird Art Awards Carefully designed by *Bird Watching* magazine to be complementary to (and not to compete with) *BB*'s 'Bird Illustrator of the Year', this competition is sponsored in 1992 by *Swarovski Optik KG*. This is its second year, and it is again organised jointly by *Bird Watching* and the Wildlife Art Gallery. The top prize is £1,000 in cash and a *Swarovski* crystal trophy. The full rules are obtainable from The Wildlife Art Gallery, 70-71 High Street, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9PT, phone 0787-248-562, but *hurry*: the closing date for entries (35-mm transparencies of up to three works of art) is Friday 22nd May.

Congratulations—and apologies Our apologies to Roy Dennis for omitting to mention him last time: Roy, too, was included in the New Year Honours List, where he received a well-deserved OBE in recognition of more than a score of years' work for ornithology and conservation in Scotland.

More congratulations First, to Dr Ian Newton, who has received the RSPB Medal. Ian is head of vertebrate ecology at the Natural Environment Research Council's Monks Wood Experimental Station: an outstanding research scientist who readily applies his work to the understanding of bird-conservation problems. Many *BB* readers will be familiar with his work on raptors and finches and know that his name appears each month inside the front cover of this magazine: he is a member of our Behaviour Notes Panel. Well done, Ian. Secondly, to the RSPB, whose magazine *Birds* was named as Best Corporate Magazine of the Year in *The Publisher* magazine awards last November. A well-deserved award, so well done RSPB and the Editor, Rob Hume, and his team. We have a link with Rob, too: he is one of the valued members of the BB Rarities Committee.

'Birding' The latest issue (December 1991) of *Birding*, the journal of our sister organisation, the American Birding Association, contains beautifully illustrated papers on US records of Aztec Thrush *Zoothera pinicola*, and on the Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica*, and the first of two articles on Hong Kong's waders ('shorebirds' in the USA, where, apparently, wader enthusiasts are classified as either 'peep-ophiles' or 'plover lovers'). As usual, there are lots of other features, including the ABA equivalent of 'Mystery photographs', 'Photo Quiz', which has *three* problems (not one) in every issue. A whole page is devoted to the feature 'Twenty Years Ago in *Birding*', not just the snippet which we give for our 'Seventy-five years ago . . .' reminiscences.

It costs just £20.00 (or US$37.00) to join the ABA, or you can obtain a sample copy for £2.00 (or US$3.50). Write to American Birding Association, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Co 80934, USA.

New member for 'Birding South West' 'Birding South West', the telephone news-service which donates all its profits to conservation, has announced that Mashuq Ahmad has joined as a full team-member. This follows the merging of the telephone information side of 'Birdlink' with 'Birding South West'. Sightings can be reported on 0426-923923, and all up-to-the-minute news can be heard on 0891-884500.

'Rare Bird News' This is the name of the new, independent bird-information service which came on line on 1st April.

'Rare Bird News' operates wholly on a cheaper phone-call tariff, thus significantly reducing the cost of bird news to birdwatchers. Furthermore, its hotline number (to phone in news of bird sightings) is charged at local rates from anywhere in the country.

A proportion of the profits is being donated to conservation.

The number on which to leave details of your bird sightings is 0426-923-923, and the number to phone for the cheapest bird news is 0881-888-111. All calls will be charged at 25p cheap rate and 39p at other times.

New publication Peter Cunningham has sent us a copy of his *Checklist of the Birds of the Western Isles*. It gives a one-line or two-line entry for each of the 315 or so species which have occurred there, including brief information on status and distribution. It is well printed, will fit easily into pocket or field guide and costs only 80p (plus 30p by post). It is available from The Western Isles Tourist Board, South Beach, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2XY.

Welsh Bird Report The fourth *Welsh Bird Report*, for 1990, has recently appeared. Apart from the systematic list, there is also a ringing report and several notes and papers. Most interestingly, the Welsh Ornithological Society

has published its report with the help of a sponsor. The species list contains much information, but it is also a pleasure to read. Its 80 pages cost £3.00 from the Report Editor, Mike Shrubb, Hillcrest, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys LD5 4TL.

What they think of us? The binocular and telescope company, 'in focus', writing to invite *BB* to enter a team in this year's County Bird Race, said that it 'will be pleased to find a team to represent you if you are unable to find four birdwatchers within your organisation . . .'.

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by



The January stage (plate 9) was intended to be tricky, showing only half a bird, but few people found any need for the full picture (shown below). Answers were as follows:

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*	(96%)
Eastern Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*	(2%)
Pied Wheatear *O. pleschanka*	(1%)
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*	(1%)

The February stage (plate 39) provided a slightly tougher test. Answers were as follows:

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*	(86%)
Arctic Redpoll *C. hornemanni*	(5%)
Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*	(4%)

with a few votes for Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*, Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* and Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (and one for the ineligible non-West-Palearctic Yemen Serin *Serinus menachensis*).

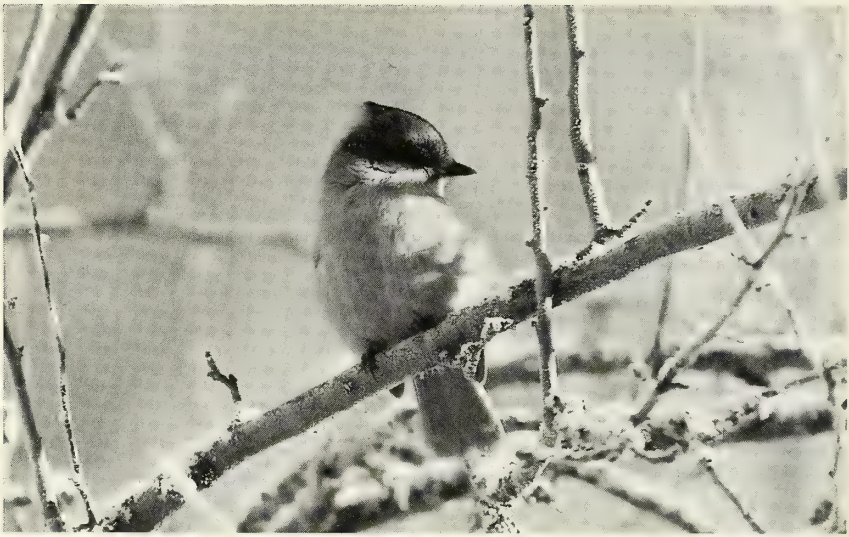
It was, indeed, a Twite, photographed in the Netherlands by Marc Raes in November 1983.

The eight leading contenders all survived these two hurdles, with G. P. Catley, P. A. Clark, Roy Hargreaves, Hannu Jännes, P. G. Lansdown, Pekka J. Nikander and Dave Nurney all on ten-in-a-row sequences, and Mrs S. K. Armstrong with a run of nine correct answers. When only one of them remains, he or she will win the prize of a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday in Africa, Asia or North America.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.

115. Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Norfolk, May 1984 (*Steve Young*)





116. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-second stage in fifth contest or first or second stage in sixth contest: photograph number 71). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th June 1992

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeeham

This summary covers the period 13th March to 9th April 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* Cley (Norfolk), 26th March.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Brand's Bay, Poole (Dorset), 19th March.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* St Kilda (Western Isles), 10th-20th March (died); Guernsey (Channel Islands), 25th-27th March; Poole, 8th to at least 9th April.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* Individual of North American race *americana*, Castlegregory (Co. Kerry), 14th-22nd March (first Irish record).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* Gronant Beach (Clwyd), 28th March.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* Camel Estuary (Cornwall), 29th March.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* Lackford Wildfowl Reserve, near Bury St Edmunds (Suffolk), 5th-7th April.

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* Lundy (Devon), 9th April.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* Picked up injured (subsequently died), Larne (Co. Antrim), 22nd March (first Irish record).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* Westcliff-on-Sea (Essex), 18th March; Dun Laoghaire (Co. Dublin), 19th-20th March; three singles (perhaps same individual) up to 10 km south of Dun Laoghaire and flock of five at Killiney (6 km south of Dun Laoghaire), 20th March.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* North Slob (Co. Wexford), 7th April.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* Jersey (Channel Islands), 13th March.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Bognor Regis (West Sussex), 14th-23rd March.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* Lerwick (Shetland), 25th March to at least 9th April.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* New Saltfleetby (Lincolnshire), 22nd March.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111
(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature.



THE ALL NEW INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE

RARE BIRD NEWS

0881 888 111

CHEAPER & BETTER VALUE BIRD NEWS

CALLS COST 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE & 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES INCLUDING VAT.

PAY LESS FOR RARE BIRD NEWS

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS ON LOCAL RATES 0426 923 923

RARE BIRD NEWS IS HELPING CONSERVATION

RARE BIRD NEWS IS A BUSINESS NAME OF ACE LINE MANAGEMENT LTD, 146 KEW ROAD, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 2AU (D129)

HOSKING TOURS

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC HOLIDAYS
to
KENYA
July 24th, - Aug 7th.1992
July 23rd. - Aug 6th.1993
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
Nov 30th. - Dec 17th.1992
TANZANIA
Jan 21st. - Feb 6th.1993
INDIA
March 5th. - 19th.1993
SEYCHELLES
May 22nd. - June 6th.1993
CHURCHILL
October 1993
For further details & brochures contact
HOSKING TOURS LTD
Pages Green House, Wetheringsett,
Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 5QA
Tel.(0728)861113 Fax.(0728)860222
(D120)



NOS OISEAUX

The Swiss ornithological journal appears four times a year (approximately 250 pages) and publishes articles and reports in French, with abstracts in German and English covering the central European avifauna, particular emphasis is placed on original contributions.

Annual subscription: 33 Swiss Francs

A free copy may be obtained by writing to the following address:

Administration,
Nos Oiseaux
Case Postale 54
CH 1197 PRANGINS
(Switzerland) (D132)

THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

invites readers of ***British Birds*** *into our membership. If you join the only North American association of and for birders, you will receive* ***Birding****, our bi-monthly magazine which gives active field birders the expertise they seek, and* ***Winging It****, a lively monthly newsletter with the latest happenings and rarities. Many ABA birdwatchers are available to advise or guide visitors to their local areas. These members are listed in our Membership Directory.*

Annual Dues: US$ 37.00 or £20.00. Sterling checks acceptable.

For sample copies, send US$3.50 or £2.00 to:

American Birding Association
PO Box 6599 Colorado Springs, CO 80934 USA (D963)

Classified Advertisements
All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB530)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB793)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB097)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB098)



(BB963)

EXMOOR. Peaceful s/catering c/heated holiday homes in National Trust Village. Marshes, woods and moorland—rich in birdlife. Reduced spring/autumn terms. Open all year. Resident Proprietors, Pack Horse, Allerford, nr Minehead. Tel: 0643 862475. (BB026)

N. W. **NORFOLK COAST** – Snettisham. Two warm and pretty cottages (Tourist Board 'Commended' – 4 key). Sleeps 4. Ideally situated close to major bird reserves. Averil Campbell. Tel. 0485 541179. (BB938)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB766)

GRACIOUS GEORGIAN HOUSE in private grounds. Central to the Yorkshire Dales, Gouthwaite, Scar and Angram reservoirs. High standard of accommodation. Private bathrooms. Interesting home cooking. Friendly quiet atmosphere. E.T.B. 3 crown commended. Residential licence. Ideal birdwatching area. Sae: brochure: Mrs P. B. Garforth, Grassfields Country House Hotel, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate. Tel: Harrogate 711412. (BB088)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB160)

SCOTLAND

ALL OVER SCOTLAND. Comfortable cottages and chalets in attractive locations throughout Scotland. Stamp please for free 84-page colour brochure. Holiday Cottages (Scotland) Ltd, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9JD. Tel: 08357 481. (BB936)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB163)

STRATHSPEY SELF CATERING. 1 crown to 5 crowns highly commended. Colour brochure from S.S.C., Ballingtomb Cottages, Dulnain Bridge PH26 3LS. Tel. 047 985 322. (BB937)

BOAT OF GARTEN, OLD FERRYMAN'S HOUSE. BB £13.50, DBB £22, PL £3, Bird register. Open fire in sitting room. Few minutes walk to RSPB reserve. Tel: 047983 370. (BB112)

ISLAY, GEESE. Warm cottages sleep 8, 7 or 2. Lady Wilson, Cala na Ruadh, Port Charlotte. Tel: 289 (BB943)

ISLE OF MULL. A stable converted into two warm, comfortable flats. Frachadil Farm, Calgary. Tel: 068 84 265 or (0453) 833323. (BB037)

ISLE OF GIGHA, Argyllshire. For a holiday surrounded by natural beauty, sandy beaches, exotic gardens, birds, wild flowers, good food and comfortable accommodation. Also self catering accommodation. Please contact Mrs. McSporran, Post Office House 058-35 251. (BB036)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £48.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB965)

GALLOWAY. Hills, lochs, forests and sea. Speciality, birds of prey and waterfowl. High quality self-catering houses, cottages, flats. Details G. M. Thomson & Co, 27 King Street, Castle Douglas. 0556 2973. (BB964)

ORKNEY ISLES; Glen, Rackwick, Isle of Hoy. Small hill farm adjacent to RSPB Reserve, ornithologist's paradise; sea birds, moorland, meadow, birds of prey. Bed and breakfast. 1 double, 1 twin; evening meal optional. Special rate for 3 days. DBB £45 per person. Also well equipped self-catering chalet and small cottage. Tel: Rendall 0856 79262. (BB039)

SPEY VALLEY. Maureen and Larry once again invite guests to sample their highland hospitality. Set in five acres, our home has uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. Bird register available. Good home cooking and a warm welcome await you. D/B/B £130 p.w. (All rooms en-suite). Brochure: Maureen Taulbut, "Braes of Duthil', Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3ND. 047984 395. (BB138)

ELLARY ESTATE—MOST ATTRACTIVE choice of self-catering cottages and chalets situated on the shores of Loch Caolisport. While you are at Ellary you are free to go wherever you please. There are hill walks, many lochs and burns where you can fish, numerous wildlife, birds, flowers, etc. The perfect location for the true country lover. For full colour brochure please write to: The Booking Office, Ellary 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PA. Tel: 08803 232/209 or 054685 223. (BB983)

ISLE OF ISLAY, HEBRIDES. Five superbly equipped cottages, open throughout year. Perfect situation with views, minutes to charming village. Short drive to RSPB reserve at Gruinart. Brochure: Mrs Sarah Roy, Lorgba Holiday Cottage, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll. Tel: 049 685/208. (BB999)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503. (BB089)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

WALES

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB135)

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest-House standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB083)

PRESILI, WEST WALES. Cottage available most dates April-September. 2-4 persons. Suit bird watchers, walkers. All amenities close (0222) 615176. (BB120)

OVERSEAS

S. E. SPAIN – comfortable house, convenient major wetlands/beach. All mod cons. Sleeps 3/4. Bird list and details. Tel: 0233 628547. (BB134)

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB146)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

WILDWINGS
The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers
DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide
Return fares from London from
U.K./EUROPE £79
M. EAST £129
CARIBBEAN £323
C. & S. AMERICA £399
AFRICA £104
N. AMERICA £175
ASIA £299
AUS/NZ £599
SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS
ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2750 pp. Brochure & Video available.
Ask for leaflet detailing our services.
0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL BS1 3AU MON. - FRI.
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757
ABTA 65077
(BB121)

Flamingo Holidays

TAKING BIRDWATCHERS TO EUROPE AND BEYOND

SIBERIA • NEPAL • THE GAMBIA
MALLORCA • CAMARGUE
EGYPT • DANUBE DELTA • ICELAND

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS IN SMALL GROUPS WITH EXPERT LEADERS

FREE BROCHURE, PHONE OR WRITE TO:

0532 586555 (24 Hour)
59 HUNGER HILLS DRIVE, LEEDS LS18 5JU

(BB085)

BIRDS OF SPEYSIDE: A week of crossbills, crested tits, ospreys and lots more; small group with very experienced leader. Also departures to ISLAY, OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND. Write to: Natureguide (Caledonia), Shiresmill, Dunfermline KY12 8ER. (BB050)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1008 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

NEW ZEALAND

For the best of NZ birding, write Nature Quest New Zealand, Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand for custom departures or details of self drive consultancy.
Tel: & Fax: (03) 489 8444

(BB031)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May – variety of accommodation – trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB137)

JUST FLIGHTS

DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL

ABTA 97237

100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS

'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'

EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)

ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB133)

ERYRI BIRDS



Come birdwatching with us in 1992

S. SPAIN	– MAY & SEPTEMBER
N. GREECE	– MAY & SEPTEMBER
E. AUSTRIA	– MAY/JUNE

Informal small group holidays with experienced guides

Send for a brochure to:
Colin Thomas,
24 Tan-y-Bwlch Rd, Llanllechid,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
Tel: (0248) 600167

(BB090)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

Affordable

Prices held for 2nd Season!

ANTARCTICA & THE FALKLANDS

BIRDING & WILDLIFE TOURS from £2,750
Dec. 1992, Jan/Feb 1993

If you are looking for the best birding experience in the world don't miss our Affordable Antarctica programme for birders. These 19 day tours, in December, January and February are based on our successful tours in 1991/1992.

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA

NEW!

BIRDING & WILDLIFE CRUISES from £2,279
Dec. 1992, Jan/Feb 1993

5 exciting new small boat cruises in search of seabirds and island endemics from New Zealand.



There are only a few places available so if you want to go, contact us soon...

John Brodie Good
0272 259999
Dick Filby
0603 767 757

WILDWINGS
21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU
A.B.T.A. 65077

(BB150)

BIRD REPORT

SEAFORTH BIRD REPORT 1990-91. £2,40 inc. p&p. Seaforth Nature Reserve, Liverpool, L21 1JD. (BB147)

BIRDLINE SOUTH EAST 1991 REPORT



now available, containing;

- Systematic list
- Full colour photographs
- Illustrated article by Chris Heard on the identification of Rock and Water Pipits
- Guide to birdwatching access at London Reservoirs.

For your copy send £5 to: Birdline South East, PO Box 481, London SE20 8LZ

(BB149)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING ADVICE LINE

'PLANNING A BIRDWATCHING TRIP ABROAD'

Thomas Cook Travel

OFFER YOU A TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS LINE: 02572 62317

Ask for Keith Hiller experienced Birdwatcher.

Details available include: * Worldwide Airfares * Car Hire * Package Holidays * Ferries * Overseas Rail * Visas * Health * Accommodation * Cruises * Foreign Money * Individuals or groups catered for.

ABTA number 29600 (BB117)

BIRD INFORMATION

The Paging Service for Birders

RARE BIRD ALERT

Tel. 0800 246 246

New cost saving options now available

(BB163)

SITUATIONS VACANT

BIRDWATCHER/TWITCHER required to help run rapidly expanding information service. To find out more, phone: 0839-007-765 ask for extension 3166

Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times. (BB162)

COURSES

SKOKHOLM ISLAND, off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art, Birdwatching, Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Send SAE to Dept BB, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF. Tel: (0437) 765462. (BB032)

BOOKS

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB151)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE envelope to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel. 0433 630137. (BB109)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request

Tel: 0352 770881

Fax: 0352 771590

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

SUBBUTEO NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB) Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd,North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)



The original **BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK**

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:

Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP

(BB159)

'RARE BIRDS IN BRITAIN 1991' This, the second annual compilation by Lee G. R. Evans is due to be published in the first week of May. It will include details of about 15,000 records of over 150 species of rarities and scarce migrants reported in Britain during 1991. Copies can be obtained, price £7.95 (including p&p), from Lee Evans Enterprises, 8 Sandycroft Road, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 6QL. (BB161)

BIRDWATCHING IN CRETE 2nd Ed. £3.75 inc. p&p. Stephanie Coghlan, 25 Thorpe Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD5 8TA. (BB099)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria. CA10 3JP (Tel. 09315-282). (BB066)

JUST IN! NEW NAT; LARKS, PIPITS & WAGTAILS. £30 post free. Cat. new/secondhand books avail. Books bought. West Coast Bird books, 25 Heatherways, Freshfield, Liverpool L37 7HL. Tel: 07048 71115. (BB096)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407
(BB142)

FOR SALE

TRIPOD TAMER 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. post from: Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB123)

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB144)

THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA. Vol. 1. By Ridgely & Tudor. Current price £50.00, for sale £40.00. Box 101, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. (BB152)

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB145)

OPTOLYTH ALPIN 10 x 40 binoculars, very good condition £150. Tel: Fareham (0329) 42456. (BB131)

TAMRON 500mm f.8 mirror lens (incl. original case) Adaptall-2 custom mount + 2x tele-converter. £145 o.n.o. Tel: 081-472 1123 (evenings). (BB132)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845

(BB164)

PRISMA TELESCOPE +20 xW.A. and 30x eyepieces. £80 (incl. p. & p.). (0243) 786487. (BB129)

GUIDE TO BIRDING IN NEW ZEALAND (2nd Edition). Sites for all endemics, maps, contacts, pelagics, species lists etc. £5.50 inc. p. & p. from Hugh Harrop, Mew House, Bigtou, Shetland ZE2 9JA. (BB128)

WANTED

PETER SCOTT Original painting required. 0524 701801. (BB148)

WALKERS

Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * TASCO**

OUR PRICES ARE TOO LOW TO PRINT

Bushnell SPACEMASTER II
70mm Body + 15x –45x Zoom **£199**
LEITZ, ZEISS & KOWA.
At OLD prices, while stocks last
Russian 7 x 35, **£27** 10 x 50, **£30** 20 x 60, **£59**

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334
(D116)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 5 May 1992

201 **Seasonal reports** Autumn 1991 Part 2: passerines *Barry Nightingale and Keith Allsopp*

Review

210 'Britain's Birds in 1989-90: the conservation and monitoring review' edited by David Stroud & David Glue *Dr Colin J. Bibby*

211 **Overseas bird tours survey** *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

Notes

237 Flight speed of Cormorant *T. B. Bamber*
238 Cormorant's method of dealing with large flatfish *Chris Snook*
238 Food piracy by Grey Herons on Great Crested Grebes *R. A. Hume*
238 Goosanders stealing fish from Great Crested Grebes *R. A. Hume*
239 Goosander spinning *Martin Wells*
240 Knot with cockle shell attached to leg *G. McCarthy*
241 Purple Sandpipers feeding inland outside breeding season *Stephen J. Riley*
241 Purple Sandpipers feeding by probing in turf *Allen S. Moore*
241 Exceptionally large roost gathering of Common Sandpipers *Andrew Whittaker*
242 Juvenile House Martin singing *B. D. Harding*
242 Feeding interaction between House Martins and Pied Wagtails *B. D. Harding*
243 House Martins obtaining food from moss on roof *S. W. M. Hughes*
243 House Martins sunning on ground *S. W. M. Hughes*
244 House Martins associating with hot-air balloon *Dr D. A. C. McNeil*
244 Blackbird eating ice-cream *Frederick J. Watson*
245 Golden Orioles drinking in flight *John V. Miller*
245 Rooks feeding on carrion *David M. Wilkinson*
245 Crossbill eating slug *Chris J. Booth and Peter Reynolds*

Letters

246 Yellow-legged Herring Gulls in Essex *Mike Dennis*
246 Death of a Hume's Short-toed Lark *J G. Parker*
247 Breeding record of Icterine Warbler in Yorkshire in 1970 *Paul Doherty*
248 Habituation *R. A. Hume*

248 Seventy-five years ago . . .

249 **Mystery photographs** *177* Great Reed Warbler *Peter Lansdown*

251 **First-summer Hobbies in the New Forest** *Brian Small*

255 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

256 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

Announcements

256 'BB' in Thailand 1992
256 Books in British BirdShop
257 'The Famous Grouse' Scotch whisky Christmas puzzle: the solution
257 Additions to the British List
257 'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB'

Request

258 Photographs of 1991 rarities needed

258 **News and comment** *Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett*

261 **Monthly marathon**

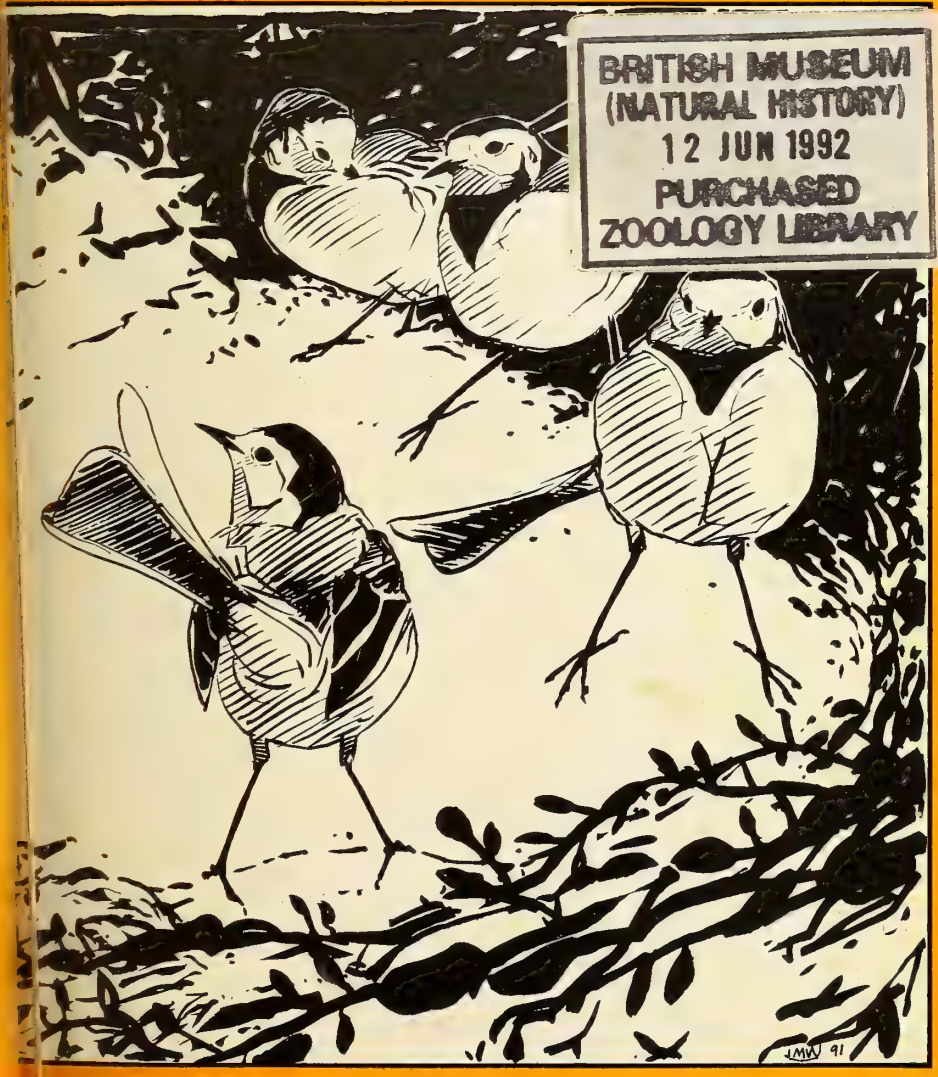
262 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 201 Redwing (*Tim Worfolk*); 202 Bobolink (*Dan Powell*); 204 Isabelline Shrike (*Dan Powell*); 207 Rose-coloured Starling and Starlings (*Phil Jones*); 207 Shore Lark (*Jan Wilczur*); 208 Desert Warbler (*Dan Powell*); 209 Great Grey Shrike (*John Wright*); 209 Waxwing (*Richard Thewlis*); 211 birdwatcher on camel (*Norman Arlott*); 251 Hobby (*Brian Small*)

Front cover: Shovelers at Stockers Lake, Rickmansworth (*Ernest Leahy*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 6 June 1992



BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
12 JUN 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

English names of West Palearctic birds

Bird Photograph of the Year

Sponsored by

Christopher Helm **HarperCollins**

Best Annual Bird Report Award

Mystery photographs • Notes • Letters • Reviews
ary dates • News and comment • Monthly marathon • Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984): names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

204 HIGH STREET
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
NOW OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 081-449 1445
PHONE 081-441 7748
FAX: 081-440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR

EGLETON NATURE RESERVE
RUTLAND WATER FRI 4TH, SAT 5TH, SUN 6TH SEPT.

"IN FOCUS" at SLIMBRIDGE

NEW SHOWROOM AT WWT, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS. OPEN THE SECOND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH STARTING 9th & 10th MAY; 13th & 14th JUNE; 11th & 12th JULY & 8th & 9th AUGUST.

SUMMER FIELD EVENT PROGRAMME

In focus are pleased to offer our customers some of the best viewing facilities throughout the UK in conjunction with the RSPB, County Trusts and other organisations. Full optical demon- strations are presented, usually from working hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10.00 am-4.00 pm. We advise, for your convenience, appointments for the two-day events which can be arranged by writing or telephoning either of our showrooms.

FISHERS GREEN LEE VALLEY ESSEX SUN 14TH JUNE SUN 12TH JULY SUN 9TH AUG	DUNGENESS KENT SAT 30TH MAY SUN 31ST MAY	CLEY VISITOR CENTRE NORFOLK TUES 2ND JUNE TUES 7TH JULY TUES 4TH AUG	LLANELLI WWT DYFED SAT 6TH JUNE SUN 7TH JUNE	ARUNDEL WWT SUSSEX SAT 20TH JUNE SUN 21ST JUNE	BROOMHILL FLASH BARNSLEY SAT 27TH JUNE SUN 28TH JUNE	
TRIMLEY MARSH FELIXSTOWE SUN 28TH JUNE	CARLTON MARSH LOWESTOFT SUN 5TH JULY	PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY DORSET SAT 11 JULY	ABBERTON NR COLCHESTER ESSEX SUN 19 JULY	CHEW VALLEY LAKE AVON SAT 25 JULY SUN 26 JULY	BLACKTOFT SANDS HUMBERSIDE SAT 1ST AUG SUN 2ND AUG	

BAUSCH & LOMB £
Elite 7x30 BGAP 599.00
Elite 8x32BGA 659.00
Elite 10x42BGA 659.00
Custom 8x36B 229.00
Custom 10x40BGA 249.00
Legacy 8x24 89.00
Elite 22x60BGA 309.00
Elite 15x-45x60BGAP 369.00
Elite 77 385.00
Elite 77ED 775.00
20xWA 148.00
30x 138.00
20-60x Zoom 198.00
Case 33.95
Photo Adaptor 189.00

LEICA £
Trinovid 8x20BC 199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC 239.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA 239.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA 255.00
Case for Mini 16.00
Trinovid 7x42BA 649.00
Trinovid 8x42BA 649.00
Trinovid 10x42BA 649.00

CARL ZEISS £
Designer 8x20BT*P 295.00
Designer 10x25BT*P 319.00
Dialyt 8x20BP 249.00
Dialyt 10x25BP 269.00
Dialyt 8x20BGA 315.00
Dialyt 8x30BGATP 529.00
Dialyt 7x42BGAT 639.00
Dialyt 10x40BGAT 639.00
Dialyt 10x40BT 689.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT 769.00
15x60 Porro GAT 1190.00
20x50 BGA £2850.00

ACCESSORIES £
Rainguard 8.00
Eye Cups (set) 16.00
Eye Cups Hard (set) 16.00
Lanyard 5.00
Wide Lanyard 15.00
Spare Case from 19.00

NIKON £
8x20CFIII 69.00
10x25CFIII 79.00
10x30CFII 85.00
8x25CFII 89.00
10x20DCF 135.00
8x25DCF 150.00
10x30DCF 249.00
7x36DCF 279.00
10x40DCF 539.00
8x35E 199.00
10x30E 229.00
7x35E 249.99
7-12x24DCF 329.00
Fieldscope II 20x60 304.00
20-45x 379.00

Fieldscope EDII 20x60 555.00
20x-45x60 629.00
15x & 20x 65.00
30x & 40x 65.00
60x 65.00
20x-45x Zoom 147.00
Hoya MC Filter 20.00
Rubber Hood 10.00
Photo Kit 168.00
Stay-on Case 45.00
Spotting Scope 20x60GA 199.00
15x-45x60GA 265.00
20x 34.95
15-45x Zoom 100.00

SWIFT £
Trilyte 7x42BGA 148.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA 148.00
Trilyte 10x42BGA 150.00
Audubon HRS 8.5x44 230.00
Audubon 7x35BGA 329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body 149.00
15-45x Zoom 49.00
20x 20.00
Case 15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3.5" Broad Band
Coating. Supplied with
50x-80x Hood, Case 2200.00
30x-50x 130.00
80x-130x 130.00
Erector Prism 289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA 227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA 257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA 246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA 249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA 268.00
Touring 8x30BGA 395.00
Touring 7x42BGA 445.00
Touring 10x40BGA 445.00
TBS HD Body 549.99
TBG HD Body 549.00
TBS 80 Body 390.00
TBG 80 Body 390.00
20x WA 122.00
30x WA 77.00
30x WA (new) 135.00
40x WA (new) 77.00
22x-60x Zoom 159.00
Soft Case 29.00
Hard Case 35.00
Stay-on Case for TBS/TBG 45.00

KOWA £
TS-601 219.00
TS-602 199.00
20x WA 64.00
25x 54.00
27x WA 94.00
20x-60x Zoom 109.00
Case 22.95
TSN-1 316.00
TSN-2 316.00
TSN-3 636.00
TSN-4 636.00
20x-60x Zoom 169.00
20x WA 109.00
25x 69.00
30x WA 139.00
40x 69.00
60x 119.00
77x 109.00
Skua Case 39.95
Rear Dust Dome 15.00
Spare OG Cover 6.00
27x WA (screw fit) 59.00
Screw/Bay Adapter 20.00
Case for TSN 24.95
Photo Adapter 800mm 129.00
Photo Adapter 1200mm 199.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30 49.95
Vega II 8x40 54.95
DIOPTRON 8x42 122.00
DIOPTRON 10x42 125.00
DIOPTRON 10x60 135.00
HR 8x32MC 152.00
HR 7x42MC 157.00
HR 8x42MC 155.00
HR 10x42MC 162.00
HR 10x50MC 178.00
HR Body 80mm 269.00
30x WA 33.00
27x80x zoom 85.00
HR Body. 22x & case 179.95
HR GA, 22x & case 189.95
HR 45, 22x & case 219.95
HR Body, 20x-60x & case 219.95
HR GA 20-60x & case 229.95
HR 45 20-60x & case 249.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA 32.00
Classic IF60 110.00
18x40WA 24.00
25x 24.00
25x HP 27.00
18x-45x zoom 61.00
Classic IF75 140.00
22xWA 24.00
30x 27.00
22x-47x zoom 61.00
Piccolo 128.00
Eye pieces from 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60 355.00
Piccolo ED 20-60x60 399.00
Photo kits from 30.00
Cases for scopes 15.00
Macro monocular 50.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B 139.95
Hanover 10x42B 149.95
Regent 8x42B 169.95
Kensington 10x42B 179.95

REDFIELD £
7x35BA 249.00
10x50BA 299.00
20-45x60GA 299.55

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS £
Opticron 20x80 390.00
Opticron 30x80 395.00

SWAROVSKI £
10x40 Diana 372.00
7x30SLC 353.00
8x30SLC 365.00
8x20B 220.00
AT80 Body 547.00
22x WA 72.00
32x WA 124.00
20x-60x Zoom 164.00
Case 93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body 145.00
Spacemaster GA Body 178.00
15x-45x Zoom 79.00
22x WA 32.00
Case 20.00
Photo Kit 30.00

VELBON £
Victory 350 39.95
D-500 59.95
D-600 69.95
D-700 79.95

CULLMAN £
Hide Clamp 54.95
Shoulder Pod 29.95
O/R System 10.95
O/R Plate 5.95

SLIK £
Master D-3 89.95

MANFROTTO £
290/128 95.00
290B/128 99.00
144/128 105.00
144B/128 109.00
Tripod Strap 10.95
O/R Plate 5.95
Monopod 079B 29.95
Monopod 134B 29.95

BENBO £
Trekker with Cullman Video Head 89.95
Trekker Monopod 29.95
95 Monopod 34.95

ACCESSORIES £
Car Window Mount 26.00
Universal Mount 26.00
Hide Clamps 38.00
Rainguards from 3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth 3.00
Tripod Strap 6.95
Lanyards from 4.00
Dust Away 3.95
Double Eyepiece Case 9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case 24.50

CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a 3 year period from date of purchase. In the event of equipment failure for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. We are a completely independent company whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

MAIL ORDERS
Just add £2 00 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa cards will be despatched same day.

SECONDHAND
Instruments always available Turnover is fast but we now produce a comprehensive list. Phone or write

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes.

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK)
We are 500 yds east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car park.

HOW TO FIND US (BARNET)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECONDHAND SCOPE. Ask for details.

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK at Briarfields Hotel, Titchwell when goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED ZEISS, LEITZ, KOWA, B&L etc. Ask for details.

"In focus Equipment Guide" Fully Illustrated 82 page Paperback 1st Edition £3.95

As the UK's number one birdwatching optics supplier, **in focus** is proud to sponsor the 'County Bird Race' and 'The British Birdwatching Fair'. As a result of these and other ventures, **in focus** has directly contributed over £30,000 to local, national and international bird conservation over the last twelve months. British Birdwatching Fair (D139)

NEW COST SAVING OPTIONS Now Available



RELIABLE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE

RARE BIRD ALERT

It's about time you discovered for yourself why our pagers have proved to be the best way of getting all the rarity news, and directions:



- **INDOORS** or **IN THE FIELD** – simply read all the latest news and directions from the screen in your pocket
- Phone **FREE** 0800 246 246
- or call **Dick Filby** of the Rare Bird Alert Team on 0603 767799
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIP** Get a pager, **NOW!**
- Please Phone in sightings of rarities to the Rare Bird Alert **HOTLINE** 0426 952 952. Hotline calls charged at local rates. A donation to conservation for every call
- £10 donated to RSPB for every pager ordered
- **NEWS OF ALL BB RARITIES – EVERY DAY** (and many sub-rarities too), with full directions on the message pagers when a bird turns up or if it moves
- **REMEMBER** once you've paid your basic rental there are no extra charges, no matter how many messages we send you, and no matter how much news there is.

YOU'LL SEE MORE with a Rare Bird Alert pager . . .

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

INTER-CITY PAGING

(D12

St. Anns Books

Rectory House, 26 Priory Road,
Great Malvern, Worcestershire. WR14 3DR
Tel: 0684 - 562818 Fax: 0684 - 566491



We are international mail-order specialists dealing **Exclusively** in **Bird Books**, with an ever-changing stock of approximately 2000 **Secondhand** titles always available, including **Rare** and **Desirable** items. We also stock 800 **New** titles

Efficient, Friendly Service • Prompt Despatch • Expert Packing

Catalogues are regularly issued, and are **Free** on request

Being fully computorised, we would be pleased to record your *"Wants"*. We would then quote you (without obligation) when copies became available.

(D991)

Summer's here. The migration is over.
Birds are busy, and scarce.
You've nothing to do.
But there is a cure for those

British Trust for Ornithology

Summer–time Blues

For BTO members, summer is one of the most interesting times of the year, and the busiest.

This year they are busy discovering Nightjars and Corn Buntings, or they are treading their local patch on a regular basis, taking part in one of the many projects the BTO has to offer you.



The BTO offers fun, enjoyable ways for you to discover more about birds, for both beginners and experts.

So come on in, get involved, and join the BTO – today!
And if you've no time for fieldwork, show your support with your subscription.

Enjoy the thrill of discovery with the BTO!

BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Registered charity no. 216652

Call 0842 750050 to join

es, I want to join the BTO now. British Birds June 92
nclose my cheque/PO for £17.00 ❑ or, I want a £3.00 discount, so
ease send me a Direct Debit form ❑ or, Please charge my credit card
ccess ❑ Visa ❑ Amount £.....

piry Date: Name on card:

rd holder's signature:

me:

dress:

Postcode:

O, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

Benefits on joining

- £5.00 *Poyser* book token & a £5.00 *WildSounds* CD/Cassette token.
- Our bimonthly magazine *BTO News*.
- Your own local contact in our Regional Network.
- The chance to take part in any of our field projects on birds.
- Training courses in ringing and census methods.
- Reduced subscriptions to *British Birds*, *British Wildlife*, *Bird Study* and *Ringing & Migration* journals.
- A chance to get directly involved with today's major conservation issues.

(D144)

TWICKERS
WORLD
The natural world

INDIA'S ANCIENT ELEPHANT FAIR – THE SONEPUR MELA

Including time in Agra, Jaipur, Delhi, Calcutta & Bombay. 15 days departing 4 Nov. FB de luxe accom. from £2095.

WILDLIFE OF INDIA & NEPAL

Visiting Bharatpur, Ranthambhor, Dudwa & Chitwan Nat. Parks, Agra, Jaipur, Delhi & Kathmandu. 22 days departing 4 Nov. from £2654.

22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW
Telephone 081-892 8164
24 hour brochure service 081-892 7851
Fax 081-892 8061 ABTA No 60340 (D134)





THE ALL NEW INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE

RARE BIRD NEWS
0881 888 111

THE CHEAPEST & BEST VALUE BIRDLINE
CALLS COST 25p/MINUTE CHEAP RATE

RING US AND SAVE £££'s

WHY PAY MORE ON HIGHER PREMIUM RATES?

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS ON LOCAL RATES
FROM ANYWHERE IN THE U.K. 0426 923 923

JOIN OUR NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF NEWS PROVIDERS

RARE BIRD NEWS IS HELPING CONSERVATION

ENQUIRIES: BIRDING U.K. 146 KEW ROAD, RICHMOND, LONDON TW9 2AU
CALLS TO 0881 NO'S CHARGED AT 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES INC. VAT
(D100)

(NATURAL HISTORY)
12 JUN 1992
PURCHASED

NEW BAUSCH & LOMB ELITE Phase Corrected Binoculars now available

Academic Press- BIRDS OF AFRICA four volume set on offer until 30th September Vols. One to Three £68.00 each Vol. Four-£72.00

Our bird table has boasted four tree sparrows and brambling. All three woodpecker species have visited our site recently.

The moorhens hatched their first brood of eight chicks on 18th April. The adults are already re-furbishing the nest for their next brood.

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

ZEISS

10x40 BGAT*P	639.00
7x42 BGAT*P	639.00
8x30 BGAT*P	529.00
Design selection	
8x20 BT*P	295.00
10x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

Trinovid 8x20 BCA	239.00
Trinovid 10x25 BCA	255.00
7x42 BA	649.00
8x42 BA	649.00
10x42 BA	649.00

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8x40 BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40 BGA	249.00
Touring 10x40	445.00
TBS/G 80 Body	390.00
TBS/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
12x-60x zoom EP	159.00
10xWA	122.00
10xWA	135.00

NIKON

7x20 CF III	69.95
7x30 ECF	229.00
10x35 ECF	249.00
Fieldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
Spotting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

Multicoat 8x42	169.95
Multicoat 10x42	179.95
Multicoat 10x50	198.95
Add £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	219.00
TS 602 Body	199.00
20xWA	64.00
25x40x	54.00
20x-60x zoom EP	109.00
Case for 601 and 602	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20xWA	109.00
30xWA	139.00
25x40x	69.00
20x-60x zoom EP	169.00
Case for TSN Range	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	129.00
Photo adaptor 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 25x60mm	126.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x H.E.P.	27.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 7x36 RA.P.	599.00
Elite 8x42 RA.P.	659.00
Elite 10x42 RA.P.	659.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	159.00
15-45x zoom EP	49.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	239.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	60.50
190 Legs	50.50
055 Legs	73.00
290 B	54.50
200 Video Head	43.00
128 RC Video Head	47.50
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

Focus Optics- The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday-Saturday 9am until 5pm
Sunday-10am until 4pm
(Closed on Monday)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:
QUESTAR•FUJINON•FUMOTO MIRADOR•BRESSER•PENTAX REDFIELD•OPTIMA•PRAKTICA
Billingham Equipment Bags.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic. Send for a price list or come and browse!



ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

ACCESS BARCLAYCARD VISA

EVENING TIMES
Tue–Sat 7pm–5pm
SUNDAY 10am–4pm

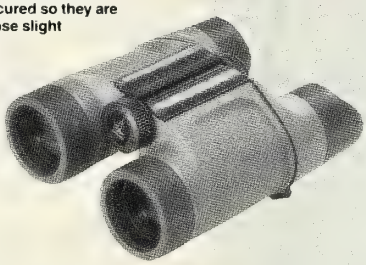
FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

(D144)

SLC BINOCULAR

MODEL ILLUSTRATED 8 x 30 SIX MODELS IN THE RANGE

The compact SL model has a new roof prism system to provide a neat and lightweight binocular you can take anywhere. Like its big brother the prisms are first laser aligned then secured so they are shock resistant. This process also eliminates those slight mis-alignments which you can't usually see, but can cause eye-strain and sometimes headaches.

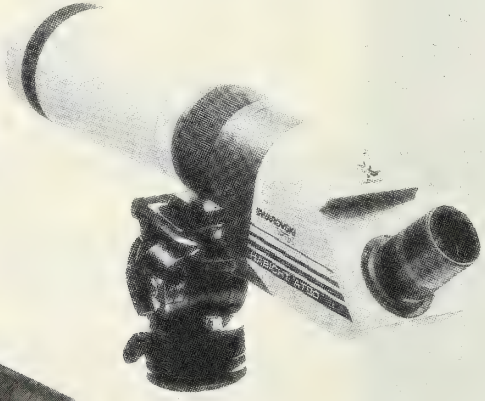


FULLY WATERPROOF

AT80 TELESCOPE

With a large 80mm diameter objective lens, the latest AT80 observation scope gives optimal performance even in poor light. Exchangeable oculars with bayonet catch and replaceable turn-back eyecups make for comfortable viewing, whilst ultra-fast focusing down to 6m provides a good all-round range. An integrated optik adapter enables the connection of a reflex camera for a new dimension in close-up photography.

FULLY WATERPROOF





FULLY WATERPROOF

8 x 20 B COMPACT BINOCULARS

The pocket sized Habicht 8 x 20 B binoculars represent the latest in state-on-the-art technology. Featuring a wide field of view with high-resolution image, they are the latest in a superb range of binoculars from Swarovski Optik, noted for its excellence in high quality optical performance.

All Swarovski Optik products are manufactured in Austria and carry a full warranty.

For further information and a full colour brochure please write to:

SWAROVSKI UK LIMITED,
One The Boulevard, Blackmoor Lane, Watford, Herts. WD1 8YW.
Telephone: 0923 816366. Telefax: 0923 816005. Telex: 24958 SWARO G.

SWAROVSKI OPTIK

The natural choice.

(D138)

English names of West Palearctic birds

Voting sheet

The BOU and *British Birds* differ in their opinions concerning the names of these 26 species. Your votes will help to resolve the conflicting views.

Please (1) vote only after you have read the relevant note on pages 282-288 in the paper in this issue;
(2) vote only on those names on which you have a firm reason for preferring one name (otherwise, leave both boxes empty)
(3) put bold X in box of each preferred name.

Read note no.	Scientific name	Alternative English names	
1	*Gavia arctica*	Arctic Diver ☐	Black-throated Diver ☐
6	*Puffinus carneipes*	Flesh-footed Shearwater ☐	Pale-footed Shearwater ☐
14	*Geronticus eremita*	Hermit Ibis ☐	Northern Bald Ibis ☐
23	*Aegypius monachus*	Cinereous Vulture ☐	Monk Vulture ☐
26	*Buteo swainsoni*	Swainson's Buzzard ☐	Swainson's Hawk ☐
31	*Alectoris chukar*	Chukar ☐	Chukar Partridge ☐
32	*Porzana carolina*	Sora ☐	Sora Crake ☐
33	*Porphyrula martinica*	American Purple Gallinule ☐	Purple Gallinule ☐
37	*Burhinus oedicnemus*	Eurasian Thick-knee ☐	Stone-curlew ☐
40	*Charadrius dubius*	Little Plover } ☐	Little Ringed Plover } ☐
40	*Charadrius hiaticula*	Ringed Plover }	Great Ringed Plover }
41	*Charadrius vociferus*	Killdeer ☐	Killdeer Plover ☐
43	*Charadrius morinellus*	Eurasian Dotterel ☐	Mountain Dotterel ☐
47	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	Arctic Skua ☐	Parasitic Skua ☐
57	*Otus brucei*	Pallid Scops Owl ☐	Striated Scops Owl ☐
61	*Hirundapus caudacutus*	White-throated Needletail ☐	White-throated Needletail Swift ☐
75	*Motacilla alba*	Pied Wagtail } ☐	White Wagtail } ☐
75	*Motacilla aguimp*	African Wagtail }	African Pied Wagtail }
78	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	Common Nightingale ☐	Rufous Nightingale ☐
79	*Tarsiger cyanurus*	Orange-flanked Bush-robin ☐	Red-flanked Bluetail ☐
85	*Zoothera dauma*	Scaly Thrush ☐	White's Thrush ☐
101	*Panurus biarmicus*	Bearded Tit ☐	Reedling ☐
109	*Petronia petronia*	Rock Petronia ☐	Rock Sparrow ☐
110	*Euodice malabarica*	Indian Silverbill ☐	White-throated Silverbill ☐
111	*Fringilla coelebs*	Chaffinch } ☐	Common Chaffinch } ☐
111	*Fringilla teydea*	Teydean Finch }	Canary Islands Chaffinch }

If you have noted any errors or omissions in the list on pages 265-282, please give details here (or on a separate sheet):

.....

.....

Your name and address and phone no. (unless you wish to remain anonymous)

.....

.....

Please send any detailed comments on *other* names to Burt L. Monroe Jr, PO Box 23447, Anchorage, Kentucky, USA; fax 502-588-0725.

Please return this voting sheet before 15th July to: BB/BOU English names, British Birds, Freepost BF955, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3BR.

Do you like 'BB' as it is?

If you think the balance is about right, please still return this form to tell us so.

If you would like more of some features, and less of others, please mark the appropriate boxes at the right.

If you indicate that you want more of some features, please also show which ones you want decreased or omitted.

Your preferences will determine the future contents of 'BB'.

More – put [+] Same – leave blank [] Less – put [–] None – put [o]

Contents of 'British Birds'	Now %	Contents wanted (+, –, o)	
01 Main papers (distribution, behaviour, conservation, etc.)	12.9	[]	01
02 Rarities Committee annual report	9.4	[]	02
03 Notes and letters (distribution, behaviour, etc.)	7.8	[]	03
04 Main papers (identification)	7.0	[]	04
05 Book reviews	6.2	[]	05
06 Rare Breeding Birds Panel report	5.8	[]	06
07 Seasonal reports	5.6	[]	07
08 Notes and letters (identification)	5.0	[]	08
09 'News and comment'	4.4	[]	09
10 'British BirdShop' (the post-free book service to subscribers)	4.3	[]	10
11 'Mystery photographs'	4.0	[]	11
12 'European news'	3.6	[]	12
13 Surveys (such as 'Binoculars and telescopes')	2.6	[]	13
14 'Studies of West Palearctic birds' (e.g. Swallow in December 1991)	2.4	[]	14
15 'Monthly marathon' competition	2.0	[]	15
16 'Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs'	1.7	[]	16
17 'Announcements'	1.6	[]	17
18 'Bird Illustrator of the Year'	1.5	[]	18
19 'ICBP news'	1.4	[]	19
20 'Bird Photograph of the Year'	1.4	[]	20
21 'Recent reports'	1.4	[]	21
22 Illustrated accounts of countries (e.g. Morocco recently)	1.2	[]	22
23 'Fieldwork action' (BTO news and IWC news)	1.0	[]	23
24 'Birdcraft' articles	1.0	[]	24
25 'Birds in action' (black-and-white photographs)	0.8	[]	25
26 'Product reports'	0.6	[]	26
27 'PhotoSpot'	0.6	[]	27
28 'Identification pitfalls and assessment problems'	0.6	[]	28
29 'Viewpoint'	0.5	[]	29
30 'Diary dates'	0.5	[]	30
31 'Requests' for information or help	0.3	[]	31
32 Obituaries	0.3	[]	32
33 'If the caption fits . . .'	0.2	[]	33
34 'Seventy-five years ago . . .'	0.2	[]	34
35 ' "The Famous Grouse" Christmas puzzle'	0.2	[]	35

Features that you want us to add:

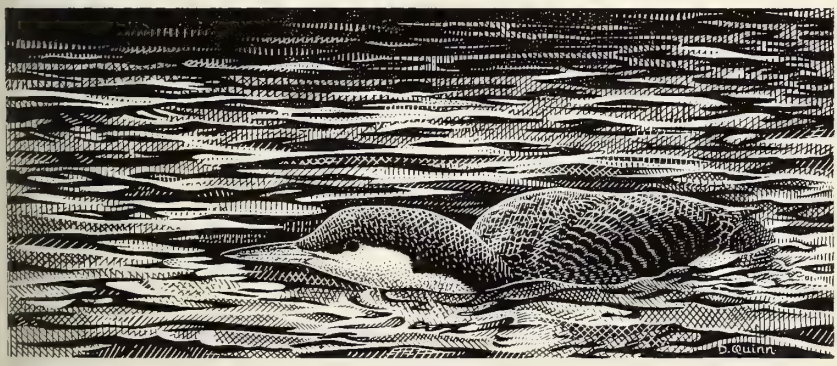
.....

Alternatively:
I like 'BB' as it is and want no changes made: [] (tick if that's your view)

Please send this form to BB Contents Vote, British Birds, Freepost BF955, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3BR.

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 6 JUNE 1992

English names of West Palearctic birds



T. P. Inskipp and J. T. R. Sharrock
on behalf of the BOU Records Committee and 'British Birds'

In a previous paper (*Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; *Ibis* 130: Supplement), the British Ornithologists' Union's Records Committee put forward proposals (based on groundwork by the late P. J. Grant, TPI and JTRS) for revising the names of birds on the West Palearctic list and invited comments and counter-proposals from the world's English-speaking ornithologists. Over 200 people responded, with suggestions and mostly constructive criticism.

In December 1990, a Round Table Discussion on the world standardisation of English names was convened by P. William Smith at the XX International Ornithological Congress held in Christchurch, New Zealand. As a result, a Working Group on English names was officially formed, under the auspices of the IOC and the chairmanship of Burt L. Monroe Jr, with the remit from the IOC to make proposals for a single list of standardised English names for the world's birds. It was agreed that the base-line for these names should be those in the recently published book, *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the*

World (1990) by Charles G. Sibley & Burt L. Monroe Jr, which had benefited from advice given by an international group of 15 ornithologists (including JTRS).

Following the IOC meeting, TPI and JTRS analysed the responses to the earlier paper, and made modified proposals, taking into consideration not only the comments received from BOU members and *British Birds* readers, but also the implications of the names adopted by Sibley & Monroe (1990). These revised proposals were discussed by the BOU Records Committee and, with a few exceptions, were presented to the BOU Council in late 1991. The Council agreed that these names should go forward as the BOU's recommendations to the IOC Working Group, accepting that further discussion would inevitably lead to some of the proposed names being changed. In the instances where opinions on names remain divided, both options are listed here.

Thus, whereas the earlier BOURC paper (*Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; *Ibis* 130: Supplement) explained reasons for suggesting changes from current British practice (*The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic*, 1984, and the BOU's *The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland*, 1971 with modifications as noted in BOURC reports), this present paper aims to give publicity to the relevant names in Sibley & Monroe (1990), of which the BOU has accepted 88.0% and *British Birds* has accepted 87.2%, and to explain the reasons for suggesting that 117 of the Sibley & Monroe names (less than 14%) might be bettered.

The resulting list of proposed names is, thus, a combination of proposals resulting from work by the BOURC, by Sibley & Monroe (1990) and their 15 international contacts, by the even-wider international forum resulting from the BOURC's earlier correspondence request, and by *British Birds*.

Anyone viewing these proposed names should be aware of the significant moves towards resolving differences between American and British names which have already been made by Sibley & Monroe (1990) and, earlier, by the American Ornithologists' Union (*Check-list of North American Birds*, 6th edn, 1983). Some problem areas remain (e.g. loons *versus* divers, jaegers *versus* skuas), and these will have to be resolved within the next few years. The list presented here contains 200 changes from current British practice which have been agreed by both the BOU and *British Birds*. On the outstanding differences—26 names over which the BOU and *British Birds* differ—we now seek to determine readers' opinions by means of a postal vote (page vii). On the remaining discrepancies between the list published here and the Sibley & Monroe names, we hope that readers with constructive comments will send them, as requested (*Brit. Birds* 85: 47), to Burt L. Monroe Jr.

The opportunity has been taken here to update the West Palearctic list maintained by *British Birds*, with additions and corrections up to 31st August 1991.

The sequence and scientific nomenclature continue to follow the long-established and familiar order (K. H. Voous, 1977, *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species*), apart from the following changes adopted by the BOURC: *Puffinus yelkouan* is separated from *P. puffinus*, *Morus bassanus* replaces *Sula bassana*, *Pluvialis fulva* is separated from *P. dominica*, and *Anthus petrosus* and *A. rubescens* are separated from *A. spinoletta*; and the splitting of one non-British species: *Aquila nipalensis* is separated from *A. rapax*.

The 'British Birds'/British Ornithologists' Union List of Birds of the Western Palearctic: proposed new English names†

Where the recommended new name or the taxonomy differs from that used by Sibley & Monroe (1990), explanations are listed under numbers 1-117.

An asterisk against the scientific name indicates a species not included in *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1984); the basis for each of these additions to the list is given in the Appendix (pages 289-290).

ientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
RUTHIONIDAE				
uthio camelu	Ostrich			
VIIDAE				
via stellata	Red-throated Diver		Red-throated Loon	1
via arctica	Arctic Diver (*BB*)			
	Black-throated Diver (BOU)	Black-throated Diver	Arctic Loon	1
via immer	Great Northern Diver		Common Loon	1
via adamsii	Yellow-billed Diver	White-billed Diver	Yellow-billed Loon	1
DICIPEDIDAE				
tilymbus podiceps	Pied-billed Grebe			
chybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe			
liceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe			
liceps grisegena	Red-necked Grebe			
liceps auritus	Slavonian Grebe		Horned Grebe	2
liceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe			
MEDEIDAE				
medea melanophris	Black-browed Albatross			
medea cauta	Shy Albatross			
medea exulans	Wandering Albatross			
OCELLARIIDAE				
narus glacialis	Northern Fulmar	Fulmar		
*tion capense**	Cape Petrel			
odroma mollis	Soft-plumaged Petrel			3
odroma hasitata	Capped Petrel		Black-capped Petrel	4
odroma incerta	Schlegel's Petrel		Atlantic Petrel	5
eria bulweri	Bulwer's Petrel			
*eria fallax**	Jouanin's Petrel			
nectris diomedea	Cory's Shearwater			
*nectris leucomelas**	Streaked Shearwater			
inus carneipes	Flesh-footed Shearwater (BOU)			
	Pale-footed Shearwater (*BB*)	Pale-footed Shearwater	Flesh-footed Shearwater	6
inus gravis	Great Shearwater			
*inus pacificus**	Wedge-tailed Shearwater			
inus griseus	Sooty Shearwater			
inus puffinus	Manx Shearwater			
*nus yelkouan**	Mediterranean Shearwater		Yelkouan Shearwater	7
*nus lherminieri**	Audubon's Shearwater			8
nus assimilis	Little Shearwater			
HYDROBATIDAE				
Oceanites oceanicus	Wilson's Storm-petrel	Wilson's Petrel		
Hydrobates marina	White-faced Storm-petrel	White-faced Petrel (*BB*) Frigate Petrel (BOU)		
*Fregetta grallaria**	White-bellied Storm-petrel			

†These new names are not being adopted immediately, either by us or by the BOU, to give time for further comments to be received. The *British Birds* Editorial Board plans, however, to adopt a final version of these names within one or two years. EDS

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
Hydrobates pelagicus	European Storm-petrel	Storm Petrel		
Oceanodroma leucorhoa	Leach's Storm-petrel	Leach's Petrel		
Oceanodroma monorhis	Swinhoe's Storm-petrel	Swinhoe's Petrel		9
Oceanodroma castro	Madeiran Storm-petrel	Madeiran Petrel	Band-rumped Storm-petrel	10
PHAETHONTIDAE				
Phaethon aethereus	Red-billed Tropicbird			
SULIDAE				
*Sula sula**	Red-footed Booby			
*Sula dactylatra**	Masked Booby			
Sula leucogaster	Brown Booby			
Morus bassanus	Northern Gannet	Gannet		
*Morus capensis**	Cape Gannet			
PHALACROCORACIDAE				
Phalacrocorax carbo	Great Cormorant	Cormorant		11
*Phalacrocorax auritus**	Double-crested Cormorant			
Phalacrocorax aristotelis	European Shag	Shag		
Phalacrocorax nigrogularis	Socotra Cormorant			
Phalacrocorax pygmeus	Pygmy Cormorant			
Phalacrocorax africanus	Long-tailed Cormorant			
ANHINGIDAE				
Anhinga melanogaster	Darter			12
PELECANIDAE				
Pelecanus onocrotalus	Great White Pelican	White Pelican		
Pelecanus crispus	Dalmatian Pelican			
Pelecanus rufescens	Pink-backed Pelican			
FREGATIDAE				
Fregata magnificens	Magnificent Frigatebird			
ARDEIDAE				
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern	Bittern		
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern			
Ixobrychus exilis	Least Bittern			
Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern			
Ixobrychus eurhythmus	Schrenck's Bittern	Schrenck's Little Bittern		
Ardeirallus sturmii	Dwarf Bittern			
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night Heron	Night Heron		
Butorides striatus	Striated Heron	Green-backed Heron (*BB*) Green Heron (BOU)		13
Ardeola ralloides	Squacco Heron			
Ardeola grayii	Indian Pond Heron			
*Ardeola bacchus**	Chinese Pond Heron			
Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret			
Hydranassa caerulea	Little Blue Heron			
*Hydranassa tricolor**	Tricolored Heron			
Hydranassa ardesiaca	Black Heron	Black Egret		
*Egretta thula**	Snowy Egret			
Egretta gularis	Western Reef Egret	Western Reef Heron		
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret			
Egretta intermedia	Intermediate Egret	Yellow-billed Egret		
Egretta alba	Great Egret	Great White Egret		
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	Heron (BOU)		
*Ardea herodias**	Great Blue Heron			
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron			
Ardea goliath	Goliath Heron			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
CICONIIDAE				
Mycteria ibis	Yellow-billed Stork			
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork			
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork			
Leptoptilos crumeniferus	Marabou Stork	Marabou		
THRESKIORNITHIDAE				
Plegadis falcinellus	Glossy Ibis			
Geronticus eremita	Hermit Ibis (*BB*)			
	Northern Bald Ibis (BOU)	Bald Ibis	Waldrapp	14
Threskiornis aethiopicus	Sacred Ibis			
Platalea leucorodia	Eurasian Spoonbill	Spoonbill		
*Platalea alba**	African Spoonbill			
PHOENICOPTERIDAE				
Phoenicopterus ruber	Greater Flamingo			
Phoenicopterus minor	Lesser Flamingo			
ANATIDAE				
Dendrocygna bicolor	Fulvous Whistling Duck			
Dendrocygna viduata	White-faced Whistling Duck			
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan			
*Cygnus atratus**	Black Swan			
Cygnus columbianus	Tundra Swan	Bewick's Swan		
Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan			
Anser fabalis	Bean Goose			
Anser brachyrhynchus	Pink-footed Goose			
Anser albifrons	Greater White-fronted Goose	White-fronted Goose		
Anser erythropus	Lesser White-fronted Goose			
Anser anser	Greylag Goose			
*Anser indicus**	Bar-headed Goose			
Anser caerulescens	Snow Goose			
*Anser rossii**	Ross's Goose			
Branta canadensis	Canada Goose			
Branta leucopsis	Barnacle Goose			
Branta bernicla	Brent Goose			
Branta ruficollis	Red-breasted Goose			
Alopochen aegyptiacus	Egyptian Goose			
Tadorna ferruginea	Ruddy Shelduck			
Tadorna tadorna	Common Shelduck	Shelduck		
Plectropterus gambensis	Spur-winged Goose			
*Nettapus coromandelianus**	Cotton Pygmy-goose			
Aix sponsa	Wood Duck			
Aix galericulata	Mandarin Duck	Mandarin (*BB*)		
Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon	Wigeon		
Anas americana	American Wigeon			
Anas falcata	Falcated Duck			
Anas strepera	Gadwall			
Anas formosa	Baikal Teal			
Anas crecca	Common Teal†	Teal		
Anas capensis	Cape Teal			
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard			
Anas rubripes	American Black Duck	Black Duck (BOU)		
Anas acuta	Northern Pintail	Pintail		
*Anas erythrorhyncha**	Red-billed Duck			
Anas querquedula	Garganey			
Anas discors	Blue-winged Teal			
Anas smithii	Cape Shoveler			
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler	Shoveler		
Marmaronetta angustirostris	Marbled Duck		Marbled Teal	15
Netta rufina	Red-crested Pochard			
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	Pochard		

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
*Aythya valisineria**	Canvasback			
Aythya collaris	Ring-necked Duck			
Aythya nyroca	Ferruginous Duck		Ferruginous Pochard	16
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck			
Aythya marila	Greater Scaup	Scaup		
*Aythya affinis**	Lesser Scaup			
Somateria mollissima	Common Eider	Eider		
Somateria spectabilis	King Eider			
Somateria fischeri	Spectacled Eider			
Polysticta stelleri	Steller's Eider			
Histrionicus histrionicus	Harlequin Duck			
Clangula hyemalis	Long-tailed Duck			
Melanitta nigra	Black Scoter	Common Scoter		
Melanitta perspicillata	Surf Scoter			
Melanitta fusca	Velvet Scoter		White-winged Scoter	17
Bucephala albeola	Bufflehead			
Bucephala islandica	Barrow's Goldeneye			
Bucephala clangula	Common Goldeneye	Goldeneye		
Mergus cucullatus	Hooded Merganser			
Mergus albellus	Smew			
Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser			
Mergus merganser	Goosander		Common Merganser	18
Oxyura jamaicensis	Ruddy Duck			
Oxyura leucocephala	White-headed Duck			
ACCIPITRIDAE				
Pernis apivorus	European Honey-buzzard	Honey Buzzard		
Elanus caeruleus	Black-shouldered Kite		Black-winged Kite	19
Milvus migrans	Black Kite			20
Milvus milvus	Red Kite			
Haliaeetus vocifer	African Fish Eagle			
Haliaeetus leucoryphus	Pallas's Fish Eagle		Pallas's Sea-Eagle	21
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle			
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle			
Gypaetus barbatus	Lammergeier			
Neophron percnopterus	Egyptian Vulture			
Necrosyrtes monachus	Hooded Vulture			
Gyps fulvus	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	Griffon Vulture	Eurasian Griffon	22
Gyps rueppellii	Rüppell's Griffon Vulture		Rueppell's Griffon	22
Torgos tracheliotus	Lappet-faced Vulture			
Aegypius monachus	Cinereous Vulture (BOU)			
	Monk Vulture (*BB*)	Black Vulture	Cinereous Vulture	22
Circaetus gallicus	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Short-toed Eagle		
Terathopius ecaudatus	Bateleur			
Circus aeruginosus	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Marsh Harrier	Western Marsh Harrier	23
Circus cyaneus	Hen Harrier		Northern Harrier	23
Circus macrourus	Pallid Harrier			
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier			
Melierax metabates	Dark Chanting-goshawk	Dark Chanting Goshawk		
*Micronisus gabar**	Gabar Goshawk			
Accipiter gentilis	Northern Goshawk	Goshawk		
Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Sparrowhawk		
Accipiter badius	Shikra			
Accipiter brevipes	Levant Sparrowhawk			
*Buteo swainsoni**	Swainson's Buzzard (*BB*)			
	Swainson's Hawk (BOU)		Swainson's Hawk	24
Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard	Buzzard		
Buteo rufinus	Long-legged Buzzard			
Buteo lagopus	Rough-legged Buzzard		Rough-legged Hawk	
Aquila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle			
Aquila clanga	Greater Spotted Eagle	Spotted Eagle		

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
Aquila rapax	Tawny Eagle	Tawny/Steppe Eagle	African Tawny-Eagle	27
*Aquila nipalensis**	Steppe Eagle			27
Aquila heliaca	Imperial Eagle			28
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle			
Aquila verreauxii	Verreaux's Eagle			
Hieraaetus pennatus	Booted Eagle			
Hieraaetus fasciatus	Bonelli's Eagle		—	
PANDIONIDAE				
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey			
FALCONIDAE				
Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel			
Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel	Kestrel		
Falco sparverius	American Kestrel			
Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon			
Falco columbarius	Merlin			
Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby	Hobby		
Falco eleonorae	Eleonora's Falcon			
Falco concolor	Sooty Falcon			
Falco biarmicus	Lanner Falcon	Lanner		
Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	Saker		
Falco rusticolus	Gyr Falcon	Gyrfalcon (*BB*)	Gyrfalcon	29
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	Peregrine		
Falco pelegrinoides	Barbary Falcon			
TETRAONIDAE				
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse			
Lagopus lagopus	Willow Ptarmigan	Willow/Red Grouse (*BB*) Red Grouse (BOU)		30
Lagopus mutus	Rock Ptarmigan	Ptarmigan		
Tetrao tetrix	Black Grouse			
Tetrao mlokosiewiczi	Caucasian Grouse	Caucasian Black Grouse		
Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie	Capercaillie		
PHASIANIDAE				
*Callipepla californica**	California Quail			
Colinus virginianus	Northern Bobwhite	Bob-white Quail (BOU)		
Tetraogallus caucasicus	Caucasian Snowcock			
Tetraogallus caspius	Caspian Snowcock			
Alectoris chukar	Chukar (BOU)			
	Chukar Partridge (*BB*)	Chukar	Chukar	31
Alectoris graeca	Rock Partridge			
Alectoris rufa	Red-legged Partridge			
Alectoris barbara	Barbary Partridge			
Ammoperdix griseogularis	See-see Partridge	See-see		31
Ammoperdix heyi	Sand Partridge			
Francolinus francolinus	Black Francolin			
Francolinus bicalcaratus	Double-spurred Francolin			
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	Partridge (BOU)		
*Perdix dauuricae**	Daurian Partridge			
Coturnix coturnix	Common Quail	Quail		
*Syrmaticus reevesii**	Reeves's Pheasant			
Phasianus colchicus	Common Pheasant	Pheasant		
Chrysolophus pictus	Golden Pheasant			
Chrysolophus amherstiae	Lady Amherst's Pheasant			
NUMIDIDAE				
Numida meleagris	Helmeted Guineafowl			
MELEAGRIDIDAE				
*Meleagris gallopavo**	Wild Turkey			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
TURNICIDAE				
Turnix sylvatica	Small Button-quail	Andalusian Hemipode		
RALLIDAE				
Rallus aquaticus	Water Rail			
Porzana porzana	Spotted Crake			
Porzana carolina	Sora Crake (*BB*)			
	Sora (BOU)	Sora Rail (BOU)		
		Sora (*BB*)	Sora	32
Porzana parva	Little Crake			
Porzana pusilla	Baillon's Crake			
Porzana marginalis	Striped Crake			
Limnocorax flavirostra	Black Crake			
Crex crex	Corn Crake	Corncrake		
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen	Moorhen		
Porphyrula alleni	Allen's Gallinule			
Porphyrula martinica	American Purple Gallinule (*BB*)			
	Purple Gallinule (BOU)	American Purple Gallinule	Purple Gallinule	33
Porphyrio porphyrio	Purple Swamp-hen	Purple Gallinule	Purple Swamphen	33
Fulica atra	Common Coot	Coot		
Fulica americana	American Coot			
Fulica cristata	Red-knobbed Coot	Crested Coot		
GRUIDAE				
Grus grus	Common Crane	Crane		
*Grus monacha**	Hooded Crane			
Grus canadensis	Sandhill Crane			
Grus leucogeranus	Siberian Crane	Siberian White Crane		
Anthropoides virgo	Demoiselle Crane			
OTIDIDAE				
Tetrax tetrax	Little Bustard			
Neotis denhami	Denham's Bustard		Stanley Bustard	34
Neotis nuba	Nubian Bustard			
Chlamydotis undulata	Houbara Bustard			
Ardeotis arabs	Arabian Bustard			
Otis tarda	Great Bustard			
ROSTRATULIDAE				
Rostratula benghalensis	Greater Painted-snipe	Painted Snipe		
HAEMATOPODIDAE				
Haematopus ostralegus	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Oystercatcher		
Haematopus moquini	African Black Oystercatcher		Canary/African Oystercatcher	35
RECURVIROSTRIDAE				
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt			
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	Avocet		
DROMADIDAE				
Dromas ardeola	Crab-plover	Crab Plover		36
BURHINIDAE				
Burhinus oedicnemus	Eurasian Thick-knee (*BB*)			
	Stone-curlew (BOU)	Stone-curlew (*BB*)		
		Stone Curlew (BOU)	Eurasian Thick-knee	37
Burhinus senegalensis	Senegal Thick-knee			
GLAREOLIDAE				
Pluvianus aegyptius	Egyptian Courser	Egyptian Plover	Crocodile-bird	38
Cursorius cursor	Cream-coloured Courser		Cream-colored Courser	38
Glareola pratincola	Collared Pratincole			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
Glareola maldivarum	Oriental Pratincole			
Glareola nordmanni	Black-winged Pratincole			
CHARADRIIDAE				
Charadrius dubius	Little Ringed Plover (*BB*)			
	Little Plover (BOU)	Little Ringed Plover	Little Ringed Plover	40
Charadrius hiaticula	Great Ringed Plover (*BB*)			
	Ringed Plover (BOU)	Ringed Plover	Common Ringed Plover	40
Charadrius semipalmatus	Semipalmated Plover			
Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer (BOU)			
	Killdeer Plover (*BB*)	Killdeer	Killdeer	41
Charadrius pecuarius	Kittlitz's Plover	Kittlitz's Sand Plover		
Charadrius alexandrinus	Kentish Plover			
Charadrius mongolus	Lesser Sand Plover		Mongolian Plover	42
Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover			
Charadrius asiaticus	Caspian Plover			
Charadrius morinellus	Eurasian Dotterel (BOU)			
	Mountain Dotterel (*BB*)	Dotterel	Eurasian Dotterel	43
*Pluvialis fulva**	Pacific Golden Plover	Lesser Golden Plover		
Pluvialis dominica	American Golden Plover	Lesser Golden Plover		
Pluvialis apricaria	European Golden Plover		Eurasian Golden Plover	44
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover			
Hoplopterus spinosus	Spur-winged Lapwing	Spur-winged Plover		
Hoplopterus tectus	Black-headed Lapwing	Blackhead Plover		
Hoplopterus indicus	Red-wattled Lapwing	Red-wattled Plover		
Chettusia gregaria	Sociable Lapwing	Sociable Plover		
Chettusia leucura	White-tailed Lapwing	White-tailed Plover		
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	Lapwing		
SCOLOPACIDAE				
Calidris tenuirostris	Great Knot			
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	Knot		
Calidris alba	Sanderling			
Calidris pusilla	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
Calidris mauri	Western Sandpiper			
Calidris ruficollis	Red-necked Stint		Rufous-necked Stint	45
Calidris minuta	Little Stint			
Calidris temminckii	Temminck's Stint			
Calidris subminuta	Long-toed Stint			
Calidris minutilla	Least Sandpiper			
Calidris fuscicollis	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Calidris bairdii	Baird's Sandpiper			
Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper			
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper			
Calidris maritima	Purple Sandpiper			
Calidris alpina	Dunlin			
*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus**	Spoonbill Sandpiper			
Limicola falcinellus	Broad-billed Sandpiper			
Micropalama himantopus	Stilt Sandpiper			
Tryngites subruficollis	Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff			
Lymnocryptes minimus	Jack Snipe			
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	Snipe		
Gallinago media	Great Snipe			
Gallinago stenura	Pintail Snipe			
Gallinago megala	Swinhoe's Snipe			
Limnodromus griseus	Short-billed Dowitcher			
Limnodromus scolopaceus	Long-billed Dowitcher			
Scolopax rusticola	Eurasian Woodcock	Woodcock		
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
Limosa haemastica	Hudsonian Godwit			
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit			
Numenius minutus	Little Curlew	Little Whimbrel		
Numenius borealis	Eskimo Curlew			
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel			
Numenius tenuirostris	Slender-billed Curlew			
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	Curlew		
Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper			
Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank			
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	Redshank		
Tringa stagnatilis	Marsh Sandpiper			
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	Greenshank		
Tringa melanoleuca	Greater Yellowlegs			
Tringa flavipes	Lesser Yellowlegs			
Tringa solitaria	Solitary Sandpiper			
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper			
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper			
Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper			
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper			
Actitis macularia	Spotted Sandpiper			
Heteroscelus brevipes	Grey-tailed Tattler	Grey-rumped Tattler (*BB*)		
Catoptrophorus semipalmatus	Willet			
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy Turnstone	Turnstone		
Phalaropus tricolor	Wilson's Phalarope			
Phalaropus lobatus	Red-necked Phalarope			
Phalaropus fulicarius	Grey Phalarope		Red Phalarope	46
STERCORARIIDAE				
Stercorarius pomarinus	Pomarine Skua		Pomarine Jaeger	47
Stercorarius parasiticus	Arctic Skua (BOU)			
	Parasitic Skua (*BB*)	Arctic Skua	Parasitic Jaeger	47
Stercorarius longicaudus	Long-tailed Skua		Long-tailed Jaeger	47
Stercorarius skua	Great Skua			
Stercorarius maccormicki	South Polar Skua			
LARIDAE				
Larus hemprichii	Sooty Gull			
Larus leucophthalmus	White-eyed Gull			
Larus ichthyaetus	Pallas's Gull	Great Black-headed Gull	Great Black-headed Gull	48
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull			
Larus atricilla	Laughing Gull			
Larus pipixcan	Franklin's Gull			
Larus minutus	Little Gull			
Larus sabini	Sabine's Gull			
Larus philadelphia	Bonaparte's Gull			
Larus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull		Common Black-headed Gull	48
*Larus brunnicephalus**	Brown-headed Gull			
Larus cirrocephalus	Grey-headed Gull			
Larus genei	Slender-billed Gull			
Larus audouinii	Audouin's Gull			
Larus delawarensis	Ring-billed Gull			
Larus canus	Mew Gull	Common Gull		
Larus fuscus	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Larus argentatus	Herring Gull			4
Larus glaucoides	Iceland Gull			
Larus hyperboreus	Glaucous Gull			
Larus marinus	Great Black-backed Gull			
Rhodostethia rosea	Ross's Gull			
Rissa tridactyla	Black-legged Kittiwake	Kittiwake		
Pagophila eburnea	Ivory Gull			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
STERNIDAE				
Gelochelidon nilotica	Gull-billed Tern			
Sterna caspia	Caspian Tern			
Sterna maxima	Royal Tern			
Sterna bergii	Greater Crested Tern	Crested Tern	Great Crested Tern	50
Sterna bengalensis	Lesser Crested Tern			
Sterna sandvicensis	Sandwich Tern			
*Sterna elegans**	Elegant Tern			
Sterna dougallii	Roseate Tern			
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern			
Sterna paradisaea	Arctic Tern			
Sterna aleutica	Aleutian Tern			
Sterna forsteri	Forster's Tern			
Sterna repressa	White-cheeked Tern			
Sterna anaethetus	Bridled Tern			
Sterna fuscata	Sooty Tern			
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern			
*Sterna saundersi**	Saunders's Tern			
Chlidonias hybridus	Whiskered Tern			
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern			
Chlidonias leucopterus	White-winged Tern	White-winged Black Tern		
Anous stolidus	Brown Noddy			
RYNCHOPIDAE				
Rynchops flavirostris	African Skimmer			
ALCIDAE				
Uria aalge	Common Guillemot	Guillemot	Common Murre	51
Uria lomvia	Brünnich's Guillemot		Thick-billed Murre	52
Alca torda	Razorbill			
Pinguinus impennis	Great Auk			
Cepphus grylle	Black Guillemot			
*Synthliboramphus antiquus**	Ancient Murrelet			
Alle alle	Little Auk		Dovekie	53
Aethia cristatella	Crested Auklet			
*Cyclorrhynchus psittacula**	Parakeet Auklet			
Fratercula arctica	Atlantic Puffin	Puffin		
PTEROCLIDIDAE				
Pterocles lichtensteinii	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse			
Pterocles coronatus	Crowned Sandgrouse			
Pterocles senegallus	Spotted Sandgrouse			
Pterocles exustus	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse			
Pterocles orientalis	Black-bellied Sandgrouse			
Pterocles alchata	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse			
Syrrhaptes paradoxus	Pallas's Sandgrouse			
COLUMBIDAE				
Columba livia	Rock Pigeon	Rock Dove		
Columba oenas	Stock Pigeon	Stock Dove		
Columba eversmanni	Yellow-eyed Pigeon	Yellow-eyed Stock Dove	Pale-backed Pigeon	54
Columba palumbus	Common Wood Pigeon	Woodpigeon		
Columba trocaz	Trocaz Pigeon	Long-toed Pigeon		
Columba bollii	Bolle's Pigeon	Bolle's Laurel Pigeon		
Columba junoniae	Laurel Pigeon			
Streptopelia roseogrisea	African Collared Dove	Pink-headed Turtle Dove		
Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian Collared Dove	Collared Dove		
Streptopelia turtur	European Turtle Dove	Turtle Dove		
Streptopelia orientalis	Oriental Turtle Dove	Rufous Turtle Dove		
Streptopelia senegalensis	Laughing Dove			
Oena capensis	Namaqua Dove			
*Zenaida macroura**	Mourning Dove			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
PSITTACIDAE				
*Myiopsitta monachus**	Monk Parakeet			
Psittacula krameri	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Ring-necked Parakeet		
CUCULIDAE				
Clamator jacobinus	Jacobin Cuckoo		Pied Cuckoo	55
Clamator glandarius	Great Spotted Cuckoo			
Chrysococcyx caprius	Didric Cuckoo		Dideric Cuckoo	56
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	Cuckoo		
Cuculus saturatus	Oriental Cuckoo			
Coccyzus erythrophthalmus	Black-billed Cuckoo			
Coccyzus americanus	Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Centropus senegalensis	Senegal Coucal			
TYTONIDAE				
Tyto alba	Barn Owl			
STRIGIDAE				
Otus brucei	Pallid Scops Owl (BOU)			
	Striated Scops Owl (*BB*)	Striated Scops Owl	Pallid Scops-Owl	57
Otus scops	Eurasian Scops Owl	Scops Owl		
Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle Owl	Eagle Owl		58
Ketupa zeylonensis	Brown Fish Owl			
Nyctea scandiaca	Snowy Owl			
Surnia ulula	Northern Hawk Owl	Hawk Owl		
Glaucidium passerinum	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	Pygmy Owl		
Athene noctua	Little Owl			
Strix aluco	Tawny Owl			
Strix butleri	Hume's Owl	Hume's Tawny Owl		
Strix uralensis	Ural Owl			
Strix nebulosa	Great Grey Owl			
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl			
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl			
Asio capensis	Marsh Owl			
Aegolius funereus	Tengmalm's Owl		Boreal Owl	59
CAPRIMULGIDAE				
Caprimulgus nubicus	Nubian Nightjar			
Caprimulgus europaeus	European Nightjar	Nightjar	Eurasian Nightjar	60
Caprimulgus ruficollis	Red-necked Nightjar			
Caprimulgus aegyptius	Egyptian Nightjar			
Chordeiles minor	Common Nighthawk	Nighthawk (BOU)		
APODIDAE				
Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail (BOU)			
	White-throated Needletail Swift (*BB*)	Needle-tailed Swift	White-throated Needletail	61
Chaetura pelagica	Chimney Swift			
Apus alexandri	Cape Verde Swift		Alexander's Swift	62
Apus unicolor	Plain Swift			
Apus apus	Common Swift	Swift		
Apus pallidus	Pallid Swift			
Apus pacificus	Pacific Swift		Fork-tailed Swift	63
Apus melba	Alpine Swift			
Apus caffer	White-rumped Swift			
Apus affinis	Little Swift			
Cypsiurus parvus	African Palm Swift	Palm Swift		
ALCEDINIDAE				
Halcyon smyrnensis	Smyrna Kingfisher	White-breasted Kingfisher	White-throated Kingfisher	64
Halcyon leucocephala	Grey-headed Kingfisher			
Alcedo atthis	Common Kingfisher	Kingfisher		

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
Ceryle rudis	Pied Kingfisher			
Ceryle alcyon	Belted Kingfisher			
MEROPIDAE				
Merops orientalis	Little Green Bee-eater			
Merops superciliosus	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater			
Merops apiaster	European Bee-eater	Bee-eater		
CORACIIDAE				
Coracias garrulus	European Roller	Roller		
Coracias abyssinicus	Abyssinian Roller			
Coracias benghalensis	Indian Roller			
Eurystomus glaucurus	Broad-billed Roller			
UPUPIDAE				
Upupa epops	Hoopoe		Eurasian Hoopoe	65
PICIDAE				
Jynx torquilla	Eurasian Wryneck	Wryneck		
Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker			
Picus canus	Grey-headed Woodpecker		Grey-faced Woodpecker	66
Picus viridis	European Green Woodpecker (*BB*)			
	Green Woodpecker (BOU)	Green Woodpecker	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	67
Picus vaillantii	Levaillant's Green Woodpecker (*BB*)			67
	Levaillant's Woodpecker (BOU)			
Dryocopus martius	Black Woodpecker			
Sphyrapicus varius	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Dendrocopos major	Great Spotted Woodpecker			
Dendrocopos syriacus	Syrian Woodpecker			
Dendrocopos medius	Middle Spotted Woodpecker			
Dendrocopos leucotos	White-backed Woodpecker			
Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker			
Picoides tridactylus	Three-toed Woodpecker			
TYRANNIDAE				
Empidonax virescens	Acadian Flycatcher			
ALAUDIDAE				
*Eremopterix signata**	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-lark			
Eremopterix nigriceps	Black-crowned Sparrow-lark	Black-crowned Finch-lark		
Eremalauda dunni	Dunn's Lark			
Ammomanes cincturus	Bar-tailed Lark	Bar-tailed Desert Lark		
Ammomanes deserti	Desert Lark			
Alaemon alaudipes	Greater Hoopoe Lark	Hoopoe Lark		
Chersophilus duponti	Dupont's Lark			
Ramphocoris clotbey	Thick-billed Lark			
Melanocorypha calandra	Calandra Lark			
Melanocorypha bimaculata	Bimaculated Lark			
Melanocorypha leucoptera	White-winged Lark			
Melanocorypha yeltoniensis	Black Lark			
Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark	Short-toed Lark		
*Calandrella acutirostris**	Hume's Lark			
Calandrella rufescens	Lesser Short-toed Lark			68
Galerida cristata	Crested Lark			
Galerida theklae	Thekla Lark			
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark	Woodlark		
*Alauda gulgula**	Oriental Lark		Oriental Skylark	69
Alauda arvensis	Sky Lark	Skylark	Eurasian Skylark	69
Alauda razae	Raso Lark	Razo Lark	Razo Lark	69
Eremophila alpestris	Horned Lark	Shore Lark		
Eremophila bilopha	Temminck's Lark	Temminck's Horned Lark		

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
HIRUNDINIDAE				
Riparia paludicola	Plain Martin	Brown-throated Sand Martin		
Riparia riparia	Sand Martin			
*Riparia cincta**	Banded Martin			
*Tachycineta bicolor**	Tree Swallow			
Ptyonoprogne fuligula	Rock Martin			70
Ptyonoprogne rupestris	Eurasian Crag Martin	Crag Martin		
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	Swallow		
*Hirundo aethiopica**	Ethiopian Swallow			
Hirundo daurica	Red-rumped Swallow			
Hirundo pyrrhonota	Cliff Swallow			
Delichon urbica	House Martin		Northern House Martin	71
MOTACILLIDAE				
Anthus novaeseelandiae	Richard's Pipit			72
Anthus godlewskii	Blyth's Pipit			
Anthus campestris	Tawny Pipit			
Anthus berthelotii	Berthelot's Pipit			
Anthus similis	Long-billed Pipit			
Anthus hodgsoni	Olive-backed Pipit			
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit			
Anthus gustavi	Pechora Pipit			
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit			
Anthus cervinus	Red-throated Pipit			
*Anthus petrosus**	Rock Pipit			
Anthus spinoletta	Water Pipit	Rock Pipit		
*Anthus rubescens**	Buff-bellied Pipit	American Pipit (BOU)	American Pipit	73
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail			
Motacilla citreola	Citrine Wagtail		Yellow-hooded Wagtail	74
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail			
Motacilla alba	Pied Wagtail (*BB*)	Pied Wagtail (*BB*)		
	White Wagtail (BOU)	Pied/White Wagtail (BOU)	White Wagtail	75
Motacilla aguimp	African Wagtail (*BB*)			
	African Pied Wagtail (BOU)	African Pied Wagtail	African Pied Wagtail	75
PYCNONOTIDAE				
Pycnonotus leucogenys	White-cheeked Bulbul			76
Pycnonotus xanthopygos	White-spectacled Bulbul	Yellow-vented Bulbul		
Pycnonotus barbatus	Garden Bulbul	Common Bulbul		
BOMBYCILLIDAE				
Bombycilla garrulus	Bohemian Waxwing	Waxwing		
Hypocolius ampelinus	Grey Hypocolius			
CINCLIDAE				
Cinclus cinclus	White-throated Dipper	Dipper		
TROGLODYTIDAE				
Troglodytes troglodytes	Winter Wren	Wren		
MIMIDAE				
Mimus polyglottos	Northern Mockingbird			
Toxostoma rufum	Brown Thrasher			
Dumetella carolinensis	Grey Catbird	Gray Catbird		
PRUNELLIDAE				
Prunella modularis	Hedge Accentor	Dunnock		
Prunella montanella	Siberian Accentor			
Prunella ocularis	Radde's Accentor		Spot-throated Accentor	77
Prunella atrogularis	Black-throated Accentor			
Prunella collaris	Alpine Accentor			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
TURDIDAE				
Cercotrichas galactotes	Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin	Rufous Bush Robin (*BB*) Rufous Bush Chat (BOU)		
Cercotrichas podobe	Black Scrub-robin	Black Bush Robin		
Erithacus rubecula	European Robin	Robin		
Luscinia luscinia	Thrush Nightingale			78
Luscinia megarhynchos	Common Nightingale (BOU) Rufous Nightingale (*BB*)	Nightingale	Common Nightingale	78
Luscinia calliope	Siberian Rubythroat			
Luscinia svecica	Bluethroat			
Luscinia cyane	Siberian Blue Robin			
Tarsiger cyanurus	Orange-flanked Bush-robin (*BB*) Red-flanked Bluetail (BOU)	Red-flanked Bluetail	Orange-flanked Bush-Robin	79
Irania gutturalis	White-throated Robin			
Phoenicurus erythronotus	Eversmann's Redstart		Rufous-backed Redstart	80
Phoenicurus ochruros	Black Redstart			
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart	Redstart		
Phoenicurus moussieri	Moussier's Redstart			
Phoenicurus erythrogaster	Güldenstädt's Redstart		White-winged Redstart	80
Cercomela melanura	Blackstart			
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat			
Saxicola dacotiae	Fuerteventura Chat	Canary Islands Stonechat	Canary Chat	81
Saxicola torquata	Common Stonechat	Stonechat		82
Saxicola caprata	Pied Bushchat	Pied Stonechat		
Myrmecocichla aethiops	Northern Anteater-chat	Ant-chat		
Oenanthe isabellina	Isabelline Wheatear			
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear	Wheatear		
Oenanthe pleschanka	Pied Wheatear			83
Oenanthe hispanica	Black-eared Wheatear			
Oenanthe deserti	Desert Wheatear			
Oenanthe finschii	Finsch's Wheatear			
Oenanthe moesta	Red-rumped Wheatear			
Oenanthe xanthoprymna	Red-tailed Wheatear		Rufous-tailed Wheatear	84
Oenanthe picata	Variable Wheatear	Eastern Pied Wheatear		
Oenanthe lugens	Mourning Wheatear			
Oenanthe monacha	Hooded Wheatear			
Oenanthe alboniger	Hume's Wheatear			
Oenanthe leucopyga	White-tailed Wheatear	White-crowned Black Wheatear		
Oenanthe leucura	Black Wheatear			
Monticola saxatilis	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	Rock Thrush		
Monticola solitarius	Blue Rock Thrush			
Zoothera dauma	Scaly Thrush (*BB*) White's Thrush (BOU)	White's Thrush	Scaly Thrush	85
Zoothera sibirica	Siberian Thrush			
Zoothera naevia	Varied Thrush			
Hylocichla mustelina	Wood Thrush			
Catharus guttatus	Hermit Thrush			
Catharus ustulatus	Swainson's Thrush	Olive-backed Thrush (BOU)		
Catharus minimus	Grey-cheeked Thrush	Gray-cheeked Thrush (*BB*)		39
Catharus fuscescens	Veery			
Turdus unicolor	Tickell's Thrush		Indian Grey Thrush	86
Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel			
Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	Blackbird	Eurasian Blackbird	87
Turdus obscurus	Eyebrowed Thrush	Eye-browed Thrush		
Turdus naumanni	Dusky Thrush	Dusky/Naumann's Thrush		
Turdus ruficollis	Dark-throated Thrush	Black-throated/ Red-throated Thrush		
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare			
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush			
Turdus iliacus	Redwing			
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
Turdus migratorius	American Robin			
SYLVIIDAE				
Cettia cetti	Cetti's Warbler			
Cisticola juncidis	Zitting Cisticola	Fan-tailed Warbler		
Prinia gracilis	Graceful Prinia	Graceful Warbler		
Scotocerca inquieta	Streaked Scrub Warbler	Scrub Warbler		
Locustella certhiola	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler		Pallas's Warbler	88
Locustella lanceolata	Lanceolated Warbler			
Locustella naevia	Common Grasshopper Warbler	Grasshopper Warbler	Grasshopper Warbler	88
Locustella fluviatilis	River Warbler		Eurasian River Warbler	89
Locustella luscinioides	Savi's Warbler			
Locustella fasciolata	Gray's Grasshopper Warbler		Gray's Warbler	90
Acrocephalus melanopogon	Moustached Warbler			
Acrocephalus paludicola	Aquatic Warbler			
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	Sedge Warbler			
Acrocephalus agricola	Paddyfield Warbler			
Acrocephalus dumetorum	Blyth's Reed Warbler			
Acrocephalus brevipennis	Cape Verde Warbler	Cape Verde Cane Warbler	Cape Verde Swamp Warbler	91
Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler			
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Reed Warbler		
Acrocephalus stentoreus	Clamorous Reed Warbler			
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Great Reed Warbler			92
Acrocephalus aedon	Thick-billed Warbler			
Hippolais pallida	Olivaceous Warbler			
Hippolais caligata	Booted Warbler			
Hippolais languida	Upcher's Warbler			
Hippolais olivetorum	Olive-tree Warbler			
Hippolais icterina	Icterine Warbler			
Hippolais polyglotta	Melodious Warbler			
Sylvia sarda	Marmora's Warbler			
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler			
Sylvia deserticola	Tristram's Warbler			
Sylvia conspicillata	Spectacled Warbler			
Sylvia cantillans	Subalpine Warbler			
Sylvia mystacea	Ménétries's Warbler		Menetries's Warbler	
Sylvia melanocephala	Sardinian Warbler			
Sylvia melanothorax	Cyprus Warbler			
Sylvia rueppellii	Rüppell's Warbler		Rueppell's Warbler	
Sylvia nana	Desert Warbler			
Sylvia leucomelaena	Arabian Warbler		Red Sea Warbler	93
Sylvia hortensis	Orphean Warbler			
Sylvia nisoria	Barred Warbler			
Sylvia curruca	Lesser Whitethroat			
Sylvia communis	Common Whitethroat	Whitethroat	Greater Whitethroat	94
Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler			
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap			
Phylloscopus nitidus	Bright Green Warbler	Green Warbler	Yellowish-breasted Warbler	95
Phylloscopus trochiloides	Greenish Warbler			
*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus**	Two-barred Warbler			
Phylloscopus borealis	Arctic Warbler			
Phylloscopus proregulus	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	Pallas's Warbler	Lemon-rumped Warbler	96
Phylloscopus inornatus	Yellow-browed Warbler		Inornate Warbler	97
Phylloscopus schwarzi	Radde's Warbler			
Phylloscopus fuscatus	Dusky Warbler			
Phylloscopus bonelli	Bonelli's Warbler			
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler			
Phylloscopus neglectus	Plain Leaf Warbler	Plain Willow Warbler		
Phylloscopus sindianus	Mountain Chiffchaff			
Phylloscopus collybita	Common Chiffchaff	Chiffchaff	Eurasian Chiffchaff	98
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
*Regulus calendula**	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest		Common Goldcrest	99
Regulus ignicapillus	Firecrest			
MUSCICAPIDAE				
Muscicapa dauurica	Asian Brown Flycatcher	Brown Flycatcher		
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher			
Ficedula parva	Red-breasted Flycatcher			
Ficedula semitorquata	Semi-collared Flycatcher			
Ficedula albicollis	Collared Flycatcher			
Ficedula hypoleuca	Pied Flycatcher		European Pied Flycatcher	100
TIMALIIDAE				
Panurus biarmicus	Bearded Tit (BOU)			
	Reedling (*BB*)	Bearded Tit	Bearded Parrotbill	101
Turdoides altirostris	Iraq Babbler			
Turdoides caudatus	Common Babbler			
Turdoides squamiceps	Arabian Babbler	Brown Babbler		
Turdoides fulvus	Fulvous Babbler		Fulvous Chatterer	102
AEGITHALIDAE				
Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed Tit			
PARIDAE				
Parus palustris	Marsh Tit			
Parus lugubris	Sombre Tit			
Parus montanus	Willow Tit			
Parus cinctus	Siberian Tit			
Parus cristatus	Crested Tit			
Parus ater	Coal Tit			
Parus caeruleus	Blue Tit			
Parus cyanus	Azure Tit			
Parus major	Great Tit			
SITTIDAE				
Sitta krueperi	Krüper's Nuthatch		Krueper's Nuthatch	
Sitta whiteheadi	Corsican Nuthatch			
Sitta ledanti	Algerian Nuthatch		Kabylie Nuthatch	103
Sitta canadensis	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
Sitta europaea	Wood Nuthatch	Nuthatch		
Sitta tephronota	Eastern Rock Nuthatch	Great Rock Nuthatch		
Sitta neumayer	Western Rock Nuthatch	Rock Nuthatch		
TICHODROMADIDAE				
Tichodroma muraria	Wallcreeper			
CERTHIIDAE				
Certhia familiaris	Eurasian Treecreeper	Treecreeper	Eurasian Tree-Creeper	104
Certhia brachydactyla	Short-toed Treecreeper		Short-toed Tree-Creeper	104
REMIZIDAE				
Remiz pendulinus	Eurasian Penduline Tit	Penduline Tit		
NECTARINIIDAE				
*Anthreptes platurus**	Pygmy Sunbird			
Anthreptes metallicus	Nile Valley Sunbird			
Nectarinia osea	Palestine Sunbird	Orange-tufted Sunbird		
ORIOLIDAE				
Oriolus oriolus	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Golden Oriole		

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
LANIIDAE				
Tchagra senegala	Black-crowned Tchagra	Black-headed Bush Shrike		
*Lanius cristatus**	Brown Shrike			
Lanius isabellinus	Isabelline Shrike		Rufous-tailed Shrike	105
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike			
Lanius schach	Long-tailed Shrike			
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike			
Lanius excubitor	Great Grey Shrike		Northern Shrike	106
Lanius senator	Woodchat Shrike			
Lanius nubicus	Masked Shrike			
CORVIDAE				
Garrulus glandarius	Eurasian Jay	Jay		
Perisoreus infaustus	Siberian Jay			
Cyanopica cyana	Azure-winged Magpie			
Pica pica	Black-billed Magpie	Magpie		
Nucifraga caryocatactes	Spotted Nutcracker	Nutcracker		
Pyrrhocorax graculus	Yellow-billed Chough	Alpine Chough		107
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Red-billed Chough	Chough		
Corvus monedula	Eurasian Jackdaw	Jackdaw		
Corvus dauuricus	Daurian Jackdaw			
Corvus splendens	House Crow	Indian House Crow		
Corvus frugilegus	Rook			
Corvus corone	Carrion Crow			
Corvus albus	Pied Crow			
Corvus ruficollis	Brown-necked Raven			
Corvus corax	Common Raven	Raven		
Corvus rhipidurus	Fan-tailed Raven			
STURNIDAE				
Onychognathus tristramii	Tristram's Starling	Tristram's Grackle		
*Sturnus sturninus**	Daurian Starling		Purple-backed Starling	108
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	Starling		
Sturnus unicolor	Spotless Starling			
Sturnus roseus	Rosy Starling	Rose-coloured Starling		
*Acridotheres tristis**	Common Myna			
PASSERIDAE				
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow			
Passer hispaniolensis	Spanish Sparrow			
Passer moabiticus	Dead Sea Sparrow			
Passer iagoensis	Cape Verde Sparrow	Rufous-backed Sparrow		
Passer simplex	Desert Sparrow			
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Tree Sparrow		
Passer luteus	Sudan Golden Sparrow	Golden Sparrow		
Petronia brachydactyla	Pale Rockfinch	Pale Rock Sparrow		109
Petronia xanthocollis	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	Yellow-throated Sparrow		109
Petronia petronia	Rock Petronia (*BB*)			
	Rock Sparrow (BOU)	Rock Sparrow	Rock Sparrow	109
Montifringilla nivalis	White-winged Snowfinch	Snowfinch		
PLOCEIDAE				
Ploceus manyar	Streaked Weaver			
ESTRILDIDAE				
Lagonosticta senegala	Red-billed Firefinch	Senegal Firefinch		
Estrilda astrild	Common Waxbill			
Amandava amandava	Red Avadavat	Avadavat		
*Euodice malabarica**	Indian Silverbill (BOU)			
	White-throated Silverbill (*BB*)		White-throated Silverbill	1
*Euodice cantans**	African Silverbill			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
VIREONIDAE				
*Vireo flavifrons**	Yellow-throated Vireo			
*Vireo philadelphicus**	Philadelphia Vireo			
Vireo olivaceus	Red-eyed Vireo			
FRINGILLIDAE				
Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch (BOU)			
	Common Chaffinch (*BB*)	Chaffinch	Chaffinch	111
Fringilla teydea	Canary Islands Chaffinch (*BB*)			
	Teydean Finch (BOU)	Canary Islands Chaffinch	Teydefinch	111
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling			
Serinus pusillus	Fire-fronted Serin	Red-fronted Serin		
Serinus serinus	European Serin	Serin		
Serinus syriacus	Syrian Serin	Tristram's Serin		
Serinus canaria	Island Canary	Canary		
Serinus citrinella	Citril Finch			
Carduelis chloris	European Greenfinch	Greenfinch		
Carduelis carduelis	European Goldfinch	Goldfinch		
Carduelis spinus	Eurasian Siskin	Siskin		
Carduelis cannabina	Common Linnet	Linnet	Eurasian Linnet	112
Carduelis flavirostris	Twite			
Carduelis flammea	Common Redpoll	Redpoll		
Carduelis hornemanni	Arctic Redpoll		Hoary Redpoll	113
Loxia leucoptera	Two-barred Crossbill		White-winged Crossbill	114
Loxia curvirostra	Common Crossbill	Crossbill	Red Crossbill	115
Loxia scotica	Scottish Crossbill			
Loxia pytyopsittacus	Parrot Crossbill			
Rhodopechys sanguinea	Crimson-winged Finch			
Rhodospiza obsoleta	Desert Finch			
*Bucanetes mongolicus**	Mongolian Finch			
Bucanetes githagineus	Trumpeter Finch			
Carpodacus erythrinus	Common Rosefinch	Scarlet Rosefinch (*BB*) Scarlet Grosbeak (BOU)		
Carpodacus synoicus	Sinai Rosefinch		Pale Rosefinch	116
Carpodacus roseus	Pallas's Rosefinch			
Carpodacus rubicilla	Great Rosefinch			
Pinicola enucleator	Pine Grosbeak			
*Uragus sibiricus**	Long-tailed Rosefinch			
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Common Bullfinch	Bullfinch	Eurasian Bullfinch	117
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch			
Hesperiphona vespertina	Evening Grosbeak			
PARULIDAE				
Mniotilta varia	Black-and-white Warbler			
*Vermivora chrysoptera**	Golden-winged Warbler			
Vermivora peregrina	Tennessee Warbler			
Parula americana	Northern Parula	Parula Warbler (BOU)		
Dendroica petechia	Yellow Warbler			
*Dendroica pensylvanica**	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
*Dendroica caerulescens**	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
*Dendroica virens**	Black-throated Green Warbler			
*Dendroica fusca**	Blackburnian Warbler			
Dendroica tigrina	Cape May Warbler			
Dendroica magnolia	Magnolia Warbler			
Dendroica coronata	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Myrtle Warbler (BOU)		
Dendroica palmarum	Palm Warbler			
Dendroica striata	Blackpoll Warbler			
Setophaga ruticilla	American Redstart			
Seiurus aurocapillus	Ovenbird			
Seiurus noveboracensis	Northern Waterthrush			
Geothlypis trichas	Common Yellowthroat	Yellowthroat (BOU)		
Wilsonia citrina	Hooded Warbler			

Scientific name	Proposed formal English name	Current English name used by *British Birds* or the British Ornithologists' Union, if different	Name in Sibley & Monroe (1990), if different	Note
*Wilsonia pusilla**	Wilson's Warbler			
*Wilsonia canadensis**	Canada Warbler			
THRAUPIDAE				
Piranga rubra	Summer Tanager			
Piranga olivacea	Scarlet Tanager			
EMBERIZIDAE				
Pipilo erythrophthalmus	Rufous-sided Towhee			
Chondestes grammacus	Lark Sparrow			
Ammodramus sandwichensis	Savannah Sparrow			
Zonotrichia iliaca	Fox Sparrow			
Zonotrichia melodia	Song Sparrow			
Zonotrichia leucophrys	White-crowned Sparrow			
Zonotrichia albicollis	White-throated Sparrow			
Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed Junco	Slate-coloured Junco (BOU)		
Calcarius lapponicus	Lapland Longspur	Lapland Bunting		
Plectrophenax nivalis	Snow Bunting			
Emberiza spodocephala	Black-faced Bunting			
Emberiza leucocephalos	Pine Bunting			
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer			
Emberiza cirlus	Cirl Bunting			
Emberiza cia	Rock Bunting			
*Emberiza cioides**	Meadow Bunting			
Emberiza striolata	House Bunting			
*Emberiza tahapisi**	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting			
Emberiza cineracea	Cinereous Bunting			
Emberiza hortulana	Ortolan Bunting			
Emberiza buchanani	Grey-necked Bunting			
Emberiza caesia	Cretzschmar's Bunting			
Emberiza chrysophrys	Yellow-browed Bunting			
Emberiza rustica	Rustic Bunting			
Emberiza pusilla	Little Bunting			
Emberiza rutila	Chestnut Bunting			
Emberiza aureola	Yellow-breasted Bunting			
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting			
Emberiza pallasi	Pallas's Bunting	Pallas's Reed Bunting		
Emberiza bruniceps	Red-headed Bunting			
Emberiza melanocephala	Black-headed Bunting			
Miliaria calandra	Corn Bunting			
*Spiza americana**	Dickcissel			
Pheucticus ludovicianus	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Guiraca caerulea	Blue Grosbeak			
Passerina cyanea	Indigo Bunting			
Passerina ciris	Painted Bunting			
ICTERIDAE				
Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Bobolink			
*Molothrus ater**	Brown-headed Cowbird			
*Quiscalus quiscula**	Common Grackle			
*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus**	Yellow-headed Blackbird			
Icterus galbula	Northern Oriole	Baltimore Oriole (BOU)		

Notes

1. The European use of 'diver' and the American use of 'loon' have not been reconciled, but confusion could be reduced by the introduction of Arctic Diver (which accords with the specific name *arctica*) and Yellow-billed Diver (which is marginally more accurate, although 'Ivory-billed Diver' would be more precise); it is to be hoped that North Americans may opt for Great Northern Loon for *G. immer*.

2. 'Slavonian' is no more inappropriate than Kentish Plover, Sandwich Tern or Dartford Warbler, and is unique; several grebes have 'horns'. We see no advantage in a change.

3. If Soft-plumaged Petrel is split into three species, the names suggested by Sibley & Monroe (1990), 'Cape Verde Petrel' and 'Madeira Petrel', are more acceptable than Bourne's (1983) suggestions of 'Gon-gon' for *P. feae* and 'Freira' for *P. madeira*. 'Gon-gon' has been applied to both species in the past, and neither it nor 'Freira' is English, and neither indicates the affinities of the species.

4. There is no other '. . .-capped Petrel', so the word 'Black' is unnecessary; it is also inaccurate, since the cap can be dark brown; the simpler name is preferred.

5. 'Schlegel's' is a unique name; there are lots of other petrels which occur in the Atlantic Ocean.

6. The bird's feet are pinkish (i.e. flesh-coloured), not covered with flesh.

7. This is the only shearwater species endemic to the Mediterranean; the main argument against this name is that it was applied for a time to *Calonectris diomedea*, but very few of today's birdwatchers remember that or would be confused by the application of 'Mediterranean Shearwater' to the newly separated species *P. yelkouan*.

8. If *persicus* is split from Audubon's Shearwater, then the obvious name for the new species is 'Persian Shearwater'.

9. A recent paper (*Ibis* 133: 351-356) has suggested that *monorhis* may be a distinctive race of *leucorhoa* rather than a separate species.

10. 'Band-rumped' is longer, more awkward-sounding and no more appropriate for this species than for several others. 'Madeiran' is unique, and no more inappropriate than, say, Kentish Plover.

11. If the Afrotropical *lucidus* is split from the Great Cormorant, the name 'White-breasted Cormorant' accurately describes its appearance.

12. If the Darter is split into three species, it is *rufa* which occurs in the West Palearctic and the Sibley & Monroe name of 'African Darter' is appropriate.

13. If *virescens* is split from *striatus*, the most appropriate names for the two West Palearctic forms are 'Striated Heron' for *B. striatus* and 'Green Heron' for *B. virescens*.

14. Resurrection of the old name 'Hermit Ibis' would retain the useful word 'Ibis' which shows the bird's relationships, and would release the name 'Bald Ibis' for *G. calvus*. The alternative name, 'Northern Bald Ibis', already adopted by Collar & Stuart (1985), is helpful in showing that there are two closely related species and that this one is the more northern of them. 'Waldrapp', which is German for Wood Raven, is inappropriate for adoption as an English name.

15. Not closely related to *Anas crecca* or other teals.

16. No good reason to change from the established name, since the genus *Aythya* contains species named 'Duck' as well as others named 'Pochard'.

17. 'Velvet-duck' dates from Ray (1678) and 'Velvet Scoter' from Fleming (1828); 'White-winged' is not especially appropriate for a species that has white only on its secondaries.

18. Not the commonest species of merganser in many areas; the long-established (Ray 1678) name 'Goosander' is more appropriate.

19. The 'shoulder area' (not the whole wing) is black, so it would be difficult to justify a retrograde change. The similarly plumaged *Elanus axillaris* of Australia requires another name to avoid confusion.

20. If *lineatus* is split from the Black Kite (and we are not convinced that this is justified), the name 'Black-eared Kite' is available.

21. This is not a marine species; the other *Haliaeetus* species on the West Palearctic list are not called 'Sea-eagles'.

22. It is helpful to retain the group name 'Vulture' for these two species.

23. The BOURC, at our suggestion, previously recommended the use of 'Cinereous Vulture' (*Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; *Ibis* 130: Supplement) and this was adopted by Sibley & Monroe (1990), but that name was disliked by international correspondents; an alternative is 'Monk Vulture', after the German, Dutch and specific scientific names (cf. Monk Parakeet). (This reduces confusion with the totally unrelated Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* of America.)

24. If the extralimital *spilonotus* is given specific status, the names 'Western Marsh Harrier' for *aeruginosus* and 'Eastern Marsh Harrier' for *spilonotus* are appropriate; 'Eurasian' is a suitable modifier for the species in the broad sense.

25. Presumably, in the days of Ray (1691), this species harried domestic chickens; let's retain a touch of history.

26. The name 'Buzzard' dates from around AD 1300 and could usefully be applied to all *Buteo* species.

27. The African *rapax* and Eurasian *nipalensis* are now treated as specifically distinct by many authors. Sibley & Monroe (revised edition in press) have split the group into three species with 'Asian Tawny-Eagle' *A. vindhiana*, extralimital to the West Palearctic.

28. If the Spanish form *adalberti* is treated as a separate species, 'Adalbert's Eagle' (used by Sibley & Monroe) is appropriate.

29. Separation of the two elements of the name indicates that this is indeed a falcon, not an unrelated species resembling a falcon (cf. Sky Lark; Common Buzzard, Honey-buzzard).

30. The old name 'Red Grouse' remains dear to our hearts, but 'Willow Ptarmigan' is appropriate on a world scale.

31. It is helpful for the name to include the group name, 'Partridge'.

32. All other *Porzana* species are called 'Crake'; formerly 'Sora Rail', this American species is known as 'Sora' in North America, but the addition of the word 'Crake' would be helpful in showing its affinities (cf. See-see Partridge, Peregrine Falcon).

33. 'Purple Gallinule' provides a unique name for *P. martinica*, but is currently still applied in Europe to *Porphyrio porphyrio*. The retention of the modifier 'American' for, say, a decade, until the name 'Purple Swamp-hen' becomes accepted as the new name for the latter species, would help to avoid confusion. (The hyphen is needed in 'Swamp-hen' since the combination 'ph' would otherwise be pronounced 'f' in English.)

34. The name 'Denham's Bustard' corresponds with the species' scientific specific name, whereas the name 'Stanley' is linked with one race, *stanleyi*.

35. If *meadewaldoi* is treated as specifically distinct from *H. moquini*, the name 'Canary Islands Oystercatcher' would be appropriate.

36. Addition of a hyphen is the minimal change necessary to indicate that this species is not closely related to the true plovers (cf. Honey-buzzard).

37. The old East Anglian name 'Thick-knee' is applied to all of the other nine species in the family Burhinidae. The addition of a hyphen to 'Stone Curlew', to give 'Stone-curlew', was adopted by *British Birds* in 1978.

38. This strange bird seems to be more closely related to the coursers; it is not a plover, and has no special association with crocodiles. 'Egyptian Courser' retains part of its old name, and indicates its probable affinities.

39. Sibley & Monroe (1990) have attempted to reconcile American versus British spelling of English words by adopting the British 'Grey' (in place of the American 'Gray') for species such as Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* and Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*, but expressing the hope that British ornithologists will respond by adopting 'colored' (instead of 'coloured') for species such as Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*. We, on the other hand, can see no difficulty in using differing spellings, such minor discrepancies being of no importance. (In any case, printers, and non-ornithological editors, in the two continents will probably ignore any such subtle attempts at compromise.)

40. 'Little Plover' for *C. dubius* is a newly proposed name, which allows the retention of 'Ringed Plover' for *C. hiaticula*. Little Ringed Plover, is, however, long established colloquially as 'LRP' and it is perhaps preferable to retain this name and call the latter 'Great Ringed Plover'. 'Great' would be a more appropriate adjective than 'Common' for this species, which is not always the commonest plover even within its normal range.

41. The other 30 species of *Charadrius* are all called 'plover'; it would be helpful in showing the affinities of the species for all 31 to include the word 'Plover' in their names (cf. Sora Crake, See-see Partridge).

42. This species and *C. leschenaultii* are very similar and it is helpful for them to have similar names; despite its scientific name, *C. mongolus* has been recorded only relatively recently in Mongolia.

43. 'Eurasian Dotterel' is not an inappropriate name, but 'Mountain Dotterel' is more euphonious and is also descriptive of the species' usual breeding areas.

44. Although not strictly confined to Europe, *P. apricaria* is more widespread there than in Asia.

45. Earlier, we recommended the change from 'Red-necked' to 'Rufous-necked', but the majority of the international correspondents who wrote to the BOU as a result of the proposals (*Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; *Ibis* 130: Supplement) were in favour of retention of 'Red-necked'.

46. The European 'Grey', describing the winter plumage, is as long established as the American 'Red', describing the breeding plumage. Adoption of 'Red Phalarope' would, however, bring it into line with 'Red Knot', which has a similar change of plumages.

47. Another 'lift' versus 'elevator' problem, Americans referring to the smaller skuas as jaegers (German for 'hunters'). A possible compromise solution would be to amend the name of *S. parasiticus* to 'Parasitic Skua'; it is, after all, less of an Arctic species than either *pomarinus* or *longicaudus*, and the new name corresponds to the scientific name (cf. Smyrna Kingfisher, European Nightjar).

48. Finding an alternative name for *L. ichthyaetus* obviates the addition of 'Common' to the English name of *L. ridibundus*. The name 'Pallas's Gull', proposed by the BOURC, would acknowledge the contribution by Pallas in describing the species in 1773. The word '*ichthyaetus*' means 'fish-eagle', so perhaps a name such as 'Fish-eating Gull' could be coined?

49. If, as proposed by Sibley & Monroe, and adopted by a number of other European countries, the Herring Gull is split into three species, the names 'Yellow-legged Gull' for *L. cachinnans* and 'Armenian Gull' for *L. armenicus* are appropriate.

50. Great and Little; but Greater and Lesser. This rule is not followed uniformly within current English bird names, but should be when a new name is proposed.

51. Cf. divers versus loons (1) and skuas versus jaegers (47).

52. We are loth to lose the historical link.

53. The American name 'Dovekie' is certainly cute, but, unlike the long-established European name, gives no indication of the bird's affinities.

54. We propose minimum change from the usual West Palearctic name, rather than a wholly new name.

55. Not all individuals are black and white, so 'Pied' is inappropriate; the unique 'Jacobin' corresponds with the scientific name (cf. Smyrna Kingfisher).

56. 'Didric' is the spelling used in *The Birds of Africa* (vol. 3, 1988).

57. Not all races are pale, though all are paler than *O. scops*; all are striated, though so are some *O. scops*.

58. If the North African *ascalaphus* is split from *bubo*, the name 'Pharaoh Eagle Owl' is appropriate.

59. Throughout much of its range, this is not a boreal species, so the name Tengmalm's Owl is more appropriate.

60. Although not strictly confined to Europe, *C. europaeus* is more widespread there than in Asia, and the inclusion of 'European' in the English name corresponds with the scientific name.

61. It is helpful to retain 'Swift' in the name to show the species' affinities (cf. Peregrine Falcon, See-see Partridge).

62. 'Cape Verde Swift' is a more informative, and more widely used, name than 'Alexander's Swift'.

63. Many swifts have forked tails; the name 'Pacific' corresponds with the scientific name.

64. Discussion on the relative merits of 'White-breasted' and 'White-throated', both of which are used widely within the species' large range, was encouraged (*Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; *Ibis* 130: Supplement). Supporters of those names were almost equal in numbers, but even more international correspondents urged a return to the name of 'Smyrna Kingfisher', which corresponds with the scientific name.

65. If *africana* is split from *epops*, the name 'Eurasian Hoopoe' is appropriate for the latter.

66. The name 'Grey-headed' is long-established for *canus*, especially in the West Palearctic. It has been given also to the newly proposed East African split *Dendropicos spodocephalus*, but a different name should be found for that species.

67. 'European' describes the range of *P. viridis* better than does 'Eurasian'. Sibley & Monroe (1990) have lumped *P. vaillantii* with *P. viridis*.

68. If *cheleensis* is split from *C. rufescens*, the name 'Asian Short-toed Lark' is appropriate for the former.

69. To avoid calling *A. arvensis* 'Eurasian Sky Lark', we suggest that *A. gulgula* should become 'Oriental Lark', *A. japonica* 'Japanese Lark' and *A. razae* 'Raso Lark'. (Note that the island where *A. razae* occurs is now usually called Raso rather than Razo or Raza.)

70. If *obsoleta* is split from *fuligula*, the name 'Pale Crag Martin' is appropriate.

71. This is the only *Delichon* species regularly associated with houses; the word 'Northern' can be omitted if the other species in the genus are given names omitting the word 'House': *D. dasypus* could be called 'Asian Martin' and *D. nipalensis* 'Nepal Martin'.

72. If *novaeseelandiae* is split, with the Afrotropical 'African Pipit' *cinnamomeus*, 'Cameroon Pipit' *cameroonensis* and 'Mountain Pipit' *hoeschi*, the Oriental 'Paddyfield Pipit' *rufulus*, the 'Australasian Pipit' *novaeseelandiae* and 'Richard's Pipit' *richardi* all separate, the last-named is the form which occurs in the Western Palearctic.

73. The name 'American Pipit' has long been used for the American populations, but, when treated as a species with *japonicus*, we feel that a new name is needed; 'Buff-bellied Pipit' has been proposed, originally by Per Alström.

74. 'Citrine Wagtail' is a well-established name in the West Palearctic, and is appropriate, so we see no need for the newly devised name 'Yellow-hooded Wagtail'.

75. The name 'Pied Wagtail' was applied especially to the British race *yarrellii* and 'White Wagtail' to the nominate Continental race. The latter has also been used for the species *M. alba* in countries other than Britain. The specific scientific name, *alba*, makes the use of 'White' not inappropriate, but every race of *M. alba* is pied in appearance and none looks white, so Pied Wagtail seems the more suitable of the two English names for the species. Omission of the word 'Pied' from the English name of *M. aguimp* obviates the need for a modifier for the English name of *M. alba*.

76. If *leucotis* is split from *P. leucogenys*, the name 'White-eared Bulbul' is appropriate for the former (and 'Himalayan Bulbul' for the latter).

77. Radde described this species in 1884 and we see no need to change its English name.

78. In many parts of the ranges of the two nightingale species, *L. megarhynchos* is not the commoner of the two, so 'Common' is an inappropriate modifier.

79. The name Orange-flanked Bush-robin is firmly established in the English-speaking areas where this species occurs regularly, so it is difficult to support the retention of the delightfully euphonious British 'Red-flanked Bluetail'.

80. Why discard the links with Eversmann and Güldenstädt, who named these species in 1841 and 1775, respectively?

81. The word 'canary' is a colour and this is not a yellow bird; its affinities are not certain, so 'Chat' is preferable to 'Stonechat'; it occurs on Fuerteventura, not all the Canary Islands.

82. If *maura* is split from *torquata*, the name Siberian Stonechat is often used (and was adopted by Sibley & Monroe 1990), but 'Asian Stonechat' would be geographically more correct.

83. If *cypriaca* is split from *pleschanka*, 'Cyprus Wheatear' is the obvious name.

84. A minor colour difference does not warrant the changing of a long-established name.

85. 'Scaly Thrush' has long usage within much of the range of the species in Asia; the alternative view is to retain the old British name of 'White's Thrush' in memory of Gilbert White.

86. 'Tickell's Thrush' is the only name used for the species in the literature referring to the Indian subcontinent, to which it is almost endemic.

87. With two-dozen 'Blackbirds' scattered throughout the world, the name 'Eurasian Blackbird' is more accurate on a world scale, but the alternative name, 'Common Blackbird', reflects the species' widespread distribution and familiarity.

88. Many thousands of birdwatchers know *Phylloscopus proregulus* as 'Pallas's Warbler', so the adoption of that English name for *Locustella certhiola* is inappropriate. Retention of the current English name does, however, necessitate the addition of a modifier ('Common' is proposed) for *L. naevia*.

89. We suggest that *Basileuterus rivularis* be given a unique name (e.g. 'Stream Warbler') to avoid that distantly related species having a name ('Neotropical River Warbler') which suggests close affinities with, and necessitating a modifier for, *Locustella fluviatilis*.

90. Whilst we do not propose the addition of 'Grasshopper' to the English name of all *Locustella*

species, the dropping of that word here is unnecessary if our proposal explained in 88 is adopted.

91. Neither 'Cane' nor 'Swamp' are especially helpful, nor needed.

92. If the Great Reed Warbler is split into three species, the names 'Basra Reed Warbler' for *A. griseldis* and 'Oriental Reed Warbler' for *A. orientalis* are appropriate; the latter has occurred in Austria.

93. Without a hyphen, the inclusion of which (i.e. 'Red-Sea Warbler') we would not favour, this name is ambiguous; why change from the established name?

94. 'Greater Whitethroat' contrasts with 'Lesser Whitethroat' for *S. curruca*, but 'Common Whitethroat' was first used by Latham (1787) and, recently, has been adopted more frequently than the alternative.

95. Not all individuals of this species are yellowish-breasted, but all are green and, indeed, a brighter green than most other *Phylloscopus* species; an additional modifier ('Bright') is needed because of the North American 'Black-throated Green Warbler' *Dendroica virens*.

96. Long known as 'Pallas's Warbler' in Britain, the restoration of 'Leaf' to its name helps to avoid ambiguity with the alternative name for *Locustella certhiola*. There are currently proposals to split the south Asian *chloronotus* group and the name 'Lemon-rumped Warbler' would be available for that new species.

97. The word 'inornate' means unadorned or plain, which is hardly applicable to a bird with a huge, sweeping supercilium and (usually) two wingbars, one of which is broad and highly conspicuous. It has carried the name 'Yellow-browed Warbler' for generations, and the fact that the 'brow' is cream-coloured rather than yellow seems insufficient reason to institute a change.

98. There are only two species called 'Chiffchaff' in the world, and one has a tiny range (which is also within Eurasia); 'Common' is a highly appropriate modifier for the commoner of the two species.

99. The status and affinities of *teneriffae*, treated as a separate species by Sibley & Monroe (1990), are uncertain, but it is probably more closely related to the Firecrest *R. ignicapillus*, making the name 'Tenerife Goldcrest' inappropriate; in addition, this form is not confined to Tenerife; the name 'Canary Islands Kinglet' appears to be the most suitable, and obviates the need for a modifier for either of the other two species.

100. The use of a unique name for *F. westermanni* (e.g. 'Westermann's Flycatcher', or 'Sharpe's Flycatcher' after its describer), which is currently known as 'Little Pied Flycatcher', although it is neither closely related nor significantly smaller, would obviate the need for a modifier for *F. hypoleuca*.

101. Sibley & Monroe (1990) adopted the name proposed by us, but, since the affinities of this bird are still uncertain, it now seems premature to name it as a parrotbill; we prefer to return to its old East Anglian name of 'Reedling', pending further study of its relationships. The alternative suggestion is to retain the current name, 'Bearded Tit', even though it seems unlikely to be related to the other species named as 'Tits'.

102. All but three of the 28 species of *Turdoides* are called 'Babbler' by Sibley & Monroe (1990); we believe all should be.

103. This newly discovered species is not confined to the Kabylie Mountains, although all known sites are within Algeria.

104. 'Treecreeper' has long-established usage as a single word for members of this family. The introduction, by Sibley & Monroe (1990), of a hyphen and a capital letter, to distinguish this group from the Australasian treecreepers *Climacteris*, is unlikely to gain favour, and the subtle distinction would almost certainly be overlooked by most people.

105. Retention of the current name links with the specific scientific name, *isabellinus*.

106. Of the two established names, we prefer that used in the Western Palearctic, contrasting as it does with the name 'Lesser Grey Shrike' for *L. minor*. In addition, although it is the more northern of the two North American species, *excubitor* breeds farther south in Africa and India than any other Palearctic shrike.

107. Although the name 'Alpine Chough' has been long established in the West Palearctic, in Asia, which comprises more of its range, it has been known generally as the 'Yellow-billed Chough' since at least the 1890s.

108. All other world checklists, and Flint *et. al.* (1984), use 'Daurian Starling', which in this case is preferred to the plumage-related name.

109. The transfer of generic scientific names to English names (e.g. 'Cisticola', 'Tchagra', 'Petronia') may be convenient and meaningful for ornithologists, but is inevitably meaningless to the ordinary person (who would understand 'warbler', 'bush-shrike' or 'rock sparrow'). It would be preferable to avoid introducing 'Petronia' into the English names, but four of the five species of *Petronia* (all except Rock Sparrow) are named 'Petronia' by Sibley & Monroe. They also placed *brachydactyla* in a separate genus, *Carpospiza*, of uncertain affinities, hence the use of 'Rockfinch' rather than 'Petronia'.

110. This Asiatic species is largely confined to India and the name 'Indian Silverbill' would contrast with 'African Silverbill' for *E. cantans*.

111. The use of 'Teydean Finch' (or, even worse, 'Teydefinch') unnecessarily hides the probable relationships of *F. teydea*; if 'Chaffinch' is included with the English name of *F. teydea*, however, *F. coelebs* needs a modifier, and 'Common Chaffinch' seems appropriate.

112. International correspondents responding to the BOURC's appeal for comments did not favour the old British name 'Brown Linnet'; the name 'Common Linnet' draws more attention to the other two linnet species' very limited ranges than does the alternative name 'Eurasian Linnet'.

113. 'Arctic Redpoll' is as well established on this side of the Atlantic as is 'Hoary Redpoll' in America. The bird breeds in a more northerly zone than the Common Redpoll and, because of the variation in plumage of the two species and the uncertain taxonomic status of some forms (e.g. *C. flammea islandica*), it seems preferable to use a distributional modifier rather than a plumage-related one.

114. Two long-established names; for a species with two white bars on each wing, we believe the name used in Europe is preferable to that used in North America.

115. This is not the only crossbill *Loxia* that is red; nor are even the males of all races of *L. curvirostra* red; the name 'Common Crossbill' is a long-established British name and more appropriate than 'Red Crossbill'.

116. The existing English name reflects the scientific specific name, *synoicus*, and we prefer this to a new, plumage-related name.

117. 'Northern Bullfinch' was disliked by the BOURC's international correspondents because of possible confusion caused by former use of this name for northern races of *P. pyrrhula*. The other five species of *Pyrrhula* all have relatively limited ranges and all are Asian; we consider that 'Common' is, therefore, a more appropriate modifier than 'Eurasian'.

Acknowledgments

This paper distils the comments and advice given by over 200 correspondents in response to the request made by the BOU and *British Birds*. Information concerning additional species has been supplied by national representatives on the West Palearctic List Committee and by Mark Beaman, co-author of the forthcoming *Handbook of Bird Identification*. We are also most grateful for the support given by our colleagues within the BOU Records Committee and the British Birds Rarities Committee, and for the friendly co-operation of Burt L. Monroe Jr.

References

BOURNE, W. R. P. 1983. The Soft-plumaged Petrel, the Gon-gon and the Freira, *Pterodroma mollis*, *P. feae* and *P. madeira*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 103: 52-58.

COLLAR, N. J., & STUART, S. N. 1985. *Threatened Birds of Africa and Related Islands*. Cambridge.

FLEMING, J. 1828. *A History of British Animals*. Edinburgh.

FLINT, V. E., BOEHME, R. L., KOSTIN, Y. V., & KUZNETSOV, A. A. 1984. *A Field Guide to Birds of the USSR*. Princeton.

JOBLING, J. A. 1991. *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names*. Oxford.

LATHAM, J. 1787. *A Supplement to General Synopsis of Birds*. London.

RAY, J. 1678. *The Ornithology of Francis Willoughby*. Translated into English, and enlarged by J. Ray. London.

—— 1691. *A Collection of English Words*. 2nd edn. London.

SIBLEY, C. G., & MONROE, B. L., JR. 1990. *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*. New Haven.

T. P. Inskipp, 1 Herneside, March Road, Welney, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE14 9SB
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Appendix. Explanation of reasons for inclusion of additional species

Daption capense Sicily 1964 (*Riv. Ital. Orn.* 54: 6)
Bulweria fallax Italy 1953 (*Bull. BOC* 105: 29-30; *Riv. Ital. Orn.* 61: 4)
Calonectris leucomelas Israel 1981 (Hovel 1987, *Check-list of the Birds of Israel*)
Puffinus pacificus Egypt 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 2)
Puffinus yelkouan Split from *P. puffinus* (*Brit. Birds* 81: 306-319; 83: 299-319; *Ibis* 133: 438)
Puffinus lherminieri Israel 1984, 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 14; 83: 222)
Fregetta grallaria Near Cape Verde Islands 1986 (*Ardea* 76: 210)
Sula sula Cape Verde Islands 1986 (*Zool. Meded.* 61: 405-419)
Sula dactylatra Spain 1985 (*Ardeola* 35; 167-174)
Morus capensis Spain 1985 (*Ardeola* 34: 123-133; *Cormorant* 13: 162-164; *Brit. Birds* 83: 519-526), off Mauritania (*Brit. Birds* 83: 519-526)
Phalacrocorax auritus England 1990, 1991 (still under review)
Ardeola bacchus Norway 1973 (*Cinclus* 1: 8-11)
Hydranassa tricolor Azores 1985 (*Dutch Birding* 9: 17-19)
Egretta thula Iceland 1983, 1985; Azores 1988 (Lewington *et al.* 1991, *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe*)
Ardea herodias Azores 1984 (*Dutch Birding* 8: 55-57)
Platalea alba Spain 1989 (*Ardeola* 38: 152-153); other records under review Austria 1987, France 1987, 1990, etc. (*Brit. Birds* 82: 322; 84: 228)
Cygnus atratus Feral breeding in Slovenia (Iztok Geister *in litt.*)
Anser indicus Feral breeding in Czechoslovakia, Italy, Germany and Norway (e.g. *Vår Fuglefauna* 9: 243-247), vagrant 1985 Russia (V. A. Margolin per J. Baumanis *in litt.*) and Hungary (László Haraszthy *in litt.*)
Anser rossii Netherlands 1985 (*Dutch Birding* 8: 57-59)
Nettapus coromandelianus Iraq 1970s (*Bull. Basrah Nat. Hist. Mus.* 3: 107-109)
Anas erythrorhyncha Israel 1958 (Hovel 1987)
Aythya valisineria Iceland 1977 (Lewington *et al.* 1991)
Aythya affinis England 1987 (*Brit. Birds* 82: 517; *Ibis* 133: 218), Ireland 1988 (*Irish Birds* 4: 87)
Micronisus gabar Egypt, several old undated records (Goodman & Meininger 1989, *The Birds of Egypt*)
Buteo swainsoni Norway 1984 (*Vår Fuglefauna* 11: 87-98)
Aquila nipalensis Split from *A. rapax* (Sibley & Monroe revised edn in press)
Callipepla californica Feral breeding in Corsica, Italy (*Alauda* 53: 34-63), Germany (Klafs & Stübs 1977, *Die Vogelwelt Mecklenburgs*), Denmark
Perdix dauuricae Feral breeding in Italy (*Riv. Ital. Orn.* 54: 3-87), Ukraine and Russia (V. V. Serebryakov & M. I. Braude per J. Baumanis *in litt.*)
Syrmaticus reevesii Feral breeding in France (*Alauda* 53: 34-63), Czechoslovakia (*World Pheasant Assoc. J.* 12: 75-80)
Meleagris gallopavo Feral breeding in Germany (Niethammer *et al.* 1964, *Die Vögel Deutschlands Artenliste*)
Grus monacha Russia (Y. A. Belousov per J. Baumanis *in litt.*)
Pluvialis fulva Split from *P. dominica* (*Brit. Birds* 80: 482-487; *Ibis* 128: 602)
Eurynorhynchus pygmeus Ukraine (two records, V. V. Serebryakov per J. Baumanis *in litt.*)
Larus brunnicephalus Israel 1985 (*Dutch Birding* 9: 120-122, but see also 13: 104-106)
Sterna elegans France 1974-91 (*Alauda* 57: 281), Ireland 1982 (*Irish Birds* 3: 362; *Ibis* 133: 219)
Sterna saundersi Egypt 1982 (*Gerfaut* 77: 109-145), Israel 1988 (*Brit. Birds* 82: 19)
Synthliboramphus antiquus England 1990-91 (*Ibis* 134: 211-214)
Cyclorrhynchus psittacula Sweden 1860 (SOF 1987, *Sveriges Fåglar*)
Zenaida macroura England 1989 (still under review)
Myiopsitta monachus Feral breeding in Italy (*Riv. Ital. Orn.* 56: 231-239), Belgium (*Aves* 22: 127-129), Spain (*Misc. Zool.* 9: 407-411)
Eremopterix signata Israel 1983 (H. Shirihai *in litt.*)
Calandrella acutirostris Israel 1986 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 262-272)
Alauda gulgula Israel 1984 (*Sandgrouse* 7: 47-54; *Brit. Birds* 78: 186-197)
Riparia cincta Egypt 1988 (*Sandgrouse* 12: 55-56; *Brit. Birds* 85: 10)
Tachycineta bicolor England 1990 (*Ibis* in prep.)

Hirundo aethiopica Israel 1991 (*Brit. Birds* 85: 10; *Torgos* 9(2): 73)
Anthus petrosus Split from *A. spinoletta* (*Brit. Birds* 81: 206-211; *Ibis* 128: 602-603)
Anthus rubescens Split from *A. spinoletta* (*Brit. Birds* 81: 206-211; *Ibis* 128: 602-603)
Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus England 1987 (still under review), Netherlands 1990 (*Dutch Birding* 14: 7-10)
Regulus calendula Iceland 1987 (*Bliki* 8: 59-60)
Anthreptes platurus Chad (*L'Oiseau et RFO* 24: 1-47)
Lanius cristatus Scotland 1985 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 586; *Ibis* 113: 219), Denmark 1988 (*Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidssk.* 85: 30)
Sturnus sturninus Scotland 1985 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 587; 82: 603-612; *Ibis* 133: 219), Norway 1985 (*Vår Fuglefauna* 10: 94-95)
Acridotheres tristis Feral breeding in Russia (*Ann. Orn.* 11: 97-111; V. A. Zubakin per J. Baumanis *in litt.*)
Euodice malabarica Feral breeding in Israel (*OSME Bull.* 23: 42-43; *Brit. Birds* 82: 354)
Euodice cantans Algeria 1970 (*Bull. BOC* 90: 136)
Vireo flavifrons England 1990 (*Ibis* in prep.)
Vireo philadelphicus Ireland 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 327; *Ibis* 130: 335), England 1987 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 588; 84: 572-574)
Bucanetes mongolicus Armenia (*IZW. Kawkaz. Mus.* 8: 193; *IZW. Gorsk. Sel. – Choz. Inst.* 3: 98), Turkey (*OSME Bull.* 24: 38), Russia (V. V. Bianki per J. Baumanis *in litt.*)
Uragus sibiricus Kazakhstan (Bashkir) and Russia (O. V. Borodin, M. I. Braude, V. D. Ilyichev & V. E. Fomin per J. Baumanis *in litt.*; *Birds of the Volga-Kama Area*, 1978), Finland 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 11, 235)
Vermivora chrysoptera England 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 489; *Ibis* 133: 220)
Dendroica pensylvanica Scotland 1985 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 590; *Ibis* 133: 220)
Dendroica caerulescens Iceland 1988 (*Bliki* 8: 59)
Dendroica virens Germany 1858 (Niethammer *et al.* 1964; *Limicola* 2: 35), Iceland 1984, dead on boat (*Bliki* 4: 57-67)
Dendroica fusca Wales 1961 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 489; *Ibis* 133: 220), near Iceland 1987 (*Bliki* 8: 59), Scotland 1988 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 489)
Wilsonia pusilla England 1985 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 590; 83: 404-408; *Ibis* 133: 220)
Wilsonia canadensis Iceland 1973 (Lewington *et al.* 1991)
Emberiza cioides Italy 1910 (*Riv. Ital. Orn.* 54: 24), Finland 1987 (*Lintumies* 23: 198)
Emberiza tahapisi Egypt 1984 (*OSME Bull.* 13: 13-14; Goodman & Meininger 1989)
Spiza americana Norway 1981 (*Vår Fuglefauna* 8: 52)
Molothrus ater Norway 1987 (*Vår Fuglefauna* 12: 101-109)
Quiscalus quiscula Denmark 1970 (*Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidssk.* 65: 133-139)
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus Iceland 1983 (*Bliki* 4: 57-67), Norway 1979, but not on full list (*Vår Fuglefauna* 3: 266)

Seventy-five years ago...

'This year (1917) some disease has attacked Barn-Owls (*Tyto a. alba*) over a great part of Ireland. During March and the first week in April I examined no less than one hundred and sixty examples all in the same condition. They were greatly emaciated, the body being so thin and wasted that little more than feathers, skin and bones, were left, the stomachs were entirely empty, but the plumage was in excellent condition. At first I thought that this condition might have been caused by the birds picking up poisoned vermin, but if this was the cause the Long-eared Owl would suffer similarly, and I have only examined one Long-eared Owl in this emaciated condition.' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 21-22, June 1917).

Mystery photographs



178 The mystery bird, perching chat-like on top of a pile of weeds (plate 114 in colour, repeated here in black-and-white) shows a mainly grey coloration to the back, and a white rump. The combination of relatively upright stance, the rump patch, the habit of perching in the open on a vantage point, and fairly strong legs point to some kind of wheatear *Oenanthe*, but which one?

Greyish upperparts could belong to a Northern *O. oenanthe*, a Red-tailed *O. xanthoprymna*, a Finsch's *O. finschii*, a Pied *O. pleschanka*, a Black-eared *O. melanoleuca*, or a Mourning *O. lugens* of the race *halophila*. The white rump has already excluded Red-tailed (of which the eastern subspecies *chrysopygia* has a notably cold-grey back) with its rusty rump. Male Northern Wheatears are the greyest, but would either be less brown, in spring/summer, or less grey—buffy-brownish on the back—in autumn and winter. What about a Finsch's, then? The grey upperparts (which are found on females; males are more buffy or beige) would be of a lighter shade and (especially on the scapulars) contrast more strongly with darker wing-coverts and flight feathers. The contrast on the mystery bird is not that strong, so we have now ruled out all species except for Pied, Black-eared and Mourning Wheatears.

The crown of the first two of those species is much the same tone as the back, whereas the crown of Mourning Wheatear is noticeably paler. On our mystery bird, the crown and back are concolorous. We need, therefore, to concentrate on features of the upperparts and wings to decide between the two remaining species. The cold grey upperparts favour Pied, since Black-eared is normally more warmly sandy-buff or golden-coloured there, but the eastern subspecies *melanoleuca*, which can be much duller on the back, must be kept in mind. A *melanoleuca* would, however, probably show some warmth in the upperparts coloration, but let us check more characters before we come to a conclusion.

An organised scalloped pattern on the mantle, consisting of buffish tips to the feathers, can be discerned, and the effect is also visible on the crown. The scallops are arranged in rows, and not scattered as they would be on a Black-

eared (if they had been present at all). The crown feathers would not be scalloped on a Black-eared, so the bird is a Pied Wheatear. Ullman noted (*Birding World* 3: 68-69) that the primary projection of Pied Wheatear is considerably longer than the exposed tertials, whereas that of Black-eared Wheatear ranges between slightly longer than to shorter than the tertials. This character is good for typical individuals such as our mystery bird. But what about sex and age? Males would have blackish mantle feathers with buffish tips (most pronounced on adults), making the scalloped effect even more discernible, or the back blacker (solid or patchy) when the tips have started to wear off. The throat and sides of the head on an autumn adult male consist of blackish feathers which, especially on the throat, can be fringed buffish. These fringes, as with the scallops on the mantle, gradually wear off as the winter proceeds. Furthermore, a dark-throated female is distinguished from a dark-throated male by not having a pronounced contrast between dark throat and breast. A first-winter male would have brownish flight-feathers, while an adult male would have blackish. It is also likely that an adult male would have whitish feathers breaking through on the nape in late autumn. As the flight-feathers are blackish on this individual, and no white is visible on the nape, it obviously is a light-throated female. Clement & Harris (*Brit. Birds* 80: 137-157, 187-238) implied that the pale, almost whitish wing-bar formed by the tips of the greater coverts (rather than a buffish, warmly coloured wing-bar) is a character of adult females and that there might be differences in the paleness/darkness of the lores between first-winter and adult females. The mystery bird has a warmly brownish-buff wing-bar, but I am sceptical whether those characters are of any validity. It is better to leave the bird unaged.

Pied Wheatear is the most common migrant wheatear in Bahrain and I photographed this individual there in November 1990. ERIK HIRSCHFELD
c/o IAL, PO Box 144, Manama, State of Bahrain

118. Mystery photograph 179. Identify the species. Answer next month



Bird Photograph of the Year

Sponsored by HarperCollins and Christopher Helm

Judging for this year's competition was as difficult, but also as enjoyable, as in other recent years. The standard is so high that the majority of the entries are potential winners. From an initial selection of 47 transparencies, a final short-list of 20 was chosen, and, following a vote, placed in the following sequence:

1st **Bird Photograph of the Year**
Redshank *Tringa totanus* **(plate 119) Bob Glover, Essex**

2nd Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* (plate **120**) Philip Perry, East Yorkshire

3rd Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (plate **121**) Gordon Langsbury, Berkshire

4th Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (plate **122**) Chris Knights, Norfolk

5th Collared Doves *Streptopelia decaocto* (plate **123**) Tony Hamblin, Warwickshire

6th Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (plate **124**) C. M. Greaves, North Yorkshire

7th Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* (plate **125**) Mike Weston, Netherlands

8th Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (plate **126**) T. R. Button, Kent

9th Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Tony Hamblin

10th Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* T. R. Button

11th Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus* Hanne Eriksen, Sultanate of Oman

12th= Razorbill *Alca torda* Peter Basterfield, Avon

12th= Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* A. de Knijff, Netherlands

12th= Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Gordon Langsbury

15th Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* E. A. Janes, Hertfordshire

16th Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Ray Tipper, East Sussex

17th= Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* Dr Kevin Carlson, Norfolk

17th= Gannets *Sula bassana* David Tipling, Kent

19th Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* E. A. Janes

20th Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* Roger Wilmshurst, West Sussex

Runners-up: Peter Basterfield (Guillemot), Dr Kevin Carlson (Rock Thrush), Stan Craig (Reed Bunting), A. de Knijff (Ross's Gulls; Ross's Gulls), Hanne Eriksen (Scops Owl), Jens Eriksen (Wood Sandpiper), Bob Glover (Redshank), C. M. Greaves (Egyptian Vulture; Whiskered Tern), Axel Halley (Peregrine), Mark Hamblin (Greenshank; Common Gull; Ring Ouzel), Tony Hamblin (Red Grouse), Clifford Heyes (Black-winged Stilt), David Kjaer (Magpies), Chris Knights (Brambling), Marc Raes (Dartford Warbler), W. Richardson (Mallard), Hans Schouten (Parrot Crossbills), Robert T. Smith (Oystercatchers), Ray Tipper (Lesser Sand Plover; Fieldfare), Roger Wilmshurst (Kingfisher) and Pierre Yésou (Willow Grouse).

Thanks to the sponsorship of Christopher Helm Publishers Ltd and HarperCollins Ltd, the 28 photographers whose work was chosen in the initial selection will all be invited to attend the Press Reception in London at which the award and prizes will be presented to the top three photographers.

Five photographers submitted transparencies of such a uniformly high standard that all three of their entries were chosen in the initial selection.

Congratulations are due for this achievement to A. de Knijff, C. M. Greaves, Mark Hamblin, Tony Hamblin and Ray Tipper; a further eight photographers had two selected (Peter Basterfield, T. R. Button, Dr Kevin Carlson, Bob Glover, E. A. Janes, Chris Knights, Gordon Langsbury and Roger Wilmshurst). It will also be noted that four photographers earned the judges' accolade by having two of their three transparencies selected in the final short-list of 20. This distinction was earned by T. R. Button, Tony Hamblin, E. A. Janes and Gordon Langsbury. With such consistency, it is likely that these names will feature among future winners of this competition.

Every one of the short-listed photographs (indeed the majority of the transparencies submitted) deserves to be shown here. With generous support from the competition's publisher-sponsors, we can show not only the top three, but also five additional runners-up (plates 119-126).

The winning photograph (plate 119) shows to perfection an adult Redshank bathing. The plumage has not yet been thoroughly wetted, so the bird does not look bedraggled as in many shots of bathing birds. The spraying water and every part of the bathing bird are perfectly sharp in Bob Glover's portrait of this common—but very shy—bird engaged in behaviour essential for feather maintenance. This is, of course, the second occasion on which Bob Glover has won the award for Bird Photograph of the Year. Readers will remember his Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* flying over frozen Essex saltings (*Brit. Birds* 81: plate 137); he and Hanne Eriksen (winner in 1989 and 1990) are the only photographers to have won this award more than once.

The flying Greater Flamingos (plate 120), photographed by Philip Perry in the Camargue, France, is one of those 'lucky shots', with beautiful composition within the frame, which are usually not the result of luck at all, but of dedication. In this instance, Philip Perry considered that this was the only photograph (out of 400 which he took) which was 'just right'. Philip Perry is, of course, also a previous winner of this award, with his portrait of a family of Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* last year (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 119).

As a flight portrait of a flying wader, Gordon Langsbury's Black-winged Stilt (plate 121) is as perfect as any known to the judges. This individual was one of several which were constantly flying backwards and forwards over sewage-beds in The Gambia (if taken within the Western Palearctic, this photograph might have edged its way even higher in the ratings).

The Sparrowhawk at its plucking-post in a small Norfolk wood (plate 122) was photographed by Chris Knights using a spot meter to judge the exposure, since the bird was in shade but the background well lit. The bird and the sloping tree-trunk used as a plucking-post are pin-sharp, but the habitat is also evocatively suggested by the shafts of sunlight and dark tree-trunks in the out-of-focus background. Chris Knights is another former winner, with his photograph of an adult Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* passing a feather to its chick (*Brit. Birds* 78: plate 88).

Tony Hamblin was photographing birds that came to bathe at his garden pond when the pair of Collared Doves (plate 123) flew in and started to allopreen; they stayed over half an hour and became so relaxed that, as shown, the female was sunning herself while the male continued to preen.

The juvenile Purple Heron (plate 124) is eating a Snipe which it had just



119. Bird Photograph of the Year 1992. Adult Redshank *Tringa totanus* bathing, Essex, April 1991 (Nikon FM2; 600 mm; 1/500th, f.8; Kodachrome 200)(*R. Glover*)

120. Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*, France, May 1991 (Nikon F4; Nikon 300 mm AF; 1/500th, f.5.6; Kodachrome 64)(*Philip Perry*)





121. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, The Gambia, January 1991 (Nikon F4s; Nikkor 300 mm AF; 1/500th, f.4; Kodachrome 64) (*Gordon Langsbury*)



122. Adult male Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* at plucking-post, Norfolk, July 1991 (Canon T90; Canon 600 mm; Kodachrome 200 ASA)(*Chris Knights*)

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173



UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in.

★ **Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve**
on the B2145 into Selsey, W. Sussex, on **Sundays 31st May, 28th June, 26th July** and **30th August** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ **Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve**
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball station on **Sundays 7th June**, **5th July** and **2nd August** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ **Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir**
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the Information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 14th June, 19th July** and **16th August** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ **Bewl Water**
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 31st May, 28th June**, **26th July** and **30th August** (10.00am to 4.00pm). *Show this advert for half price parking. Refund with purchase.

★ **Alton Water**
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 21st June** and **19th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ **College Lake Wildlife Centre**
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the Visitor Centre (main, central hide) on **10th May** and **14th June** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

★ **Warnham Nature Reserve**
Just off the A24 (northern roundabout for Horsham, W. Sussex) on the B2237 on **Sunday 21st June** (10.00am to 4.00pm)

★ **Slimbridge, Glos.**
(M5, Jct 13) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Saturday 20th June** and **25th July** and **Monday 3rd August** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

FREE TRIPOD, WORTH £40 (SOLIGOR) with certain* telescopes – or pay the extra for a different tripod.

Some examples of our stocks:

At least £50 allowance for your old binos when buying these # Zeiss models

ZEISS	£
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)#	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)#	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699

BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159

SWAROVSKI *	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365

LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649

SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	239
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239

FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179

NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
* FREE WITH SCOPE *	
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265

KOWA *	£
TSN-1 (45°) body	316
TSN-2 body	316
TSN-3 body	636
TSN-4 body	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	179
TS 602 scope body (45°)	179
27x (WA) eyepiece	100
20x (WA) eyepiece	55
25x (WA)	48
20-60x zoom	99
Case	20

VIEWMASTER	
45° scope with zoom EP	199

OPTOLYTH *	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body (350)	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36

OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250

(We still have a few items at pre-increase prices)

	£
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399

BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
15–45x zoom EP	49
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15

REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299

GREENKAT *	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15

OBSERVATION	
Vixen 20 x 100	750
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215

MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81

NIGHT VISION	
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	1290

ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180

TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Manfrotto 144/200	105
Manfrotto 190/200	93
Uni-Loc	90
Soligor 550	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports** including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit** (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

(D133)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

DPA

NEW VISION



MADE BY LEICA



"You've got to hand it to Leica... these superb binos are a real eye opener." BILL ODDIE

At first sight an exemplary, functional and timelessly beautiful design. On second sight a convincing and superior optical performance. A long-term view observes and confirms the unsurpassed reliability of precision mechanics. The new binocular generation from Leica. Made for the demanding observer who wishes to sweep the horizon yet never miss the nearby detail. There is a choice of three outstanding models. The universal and popular LEICA 8 x 42, the powerful LEICA 10 x 42 and the brilliant professional binocular LEICA 7 x 42.

Leica

The freedom to see.

For further information about Leica products and a list of dealers, send the coupon to Leica, PO Box 10, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9BT. Telephone and Service enquiries (0908) 666663.

LEICA Binoculars ☐ LEICA Compact Binoculars ☐ LEICA Cameras M6 ☐ R ☐ Compact ☐

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone _____

LBB 0692

(D143)

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Top binoculars for the future

Most popular binoculars

Most popular make of binocular

Recommended by British Birds

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street; Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hannington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS:

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd; Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports

Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD throughout the country

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept 98, P.O. Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1LU.

Carl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved a world wide reputation for excellence.

In their latest Binocular Survey, the readers of the universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA 'T*' Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ZEISS

Germany Carl Zeiss

(D9)



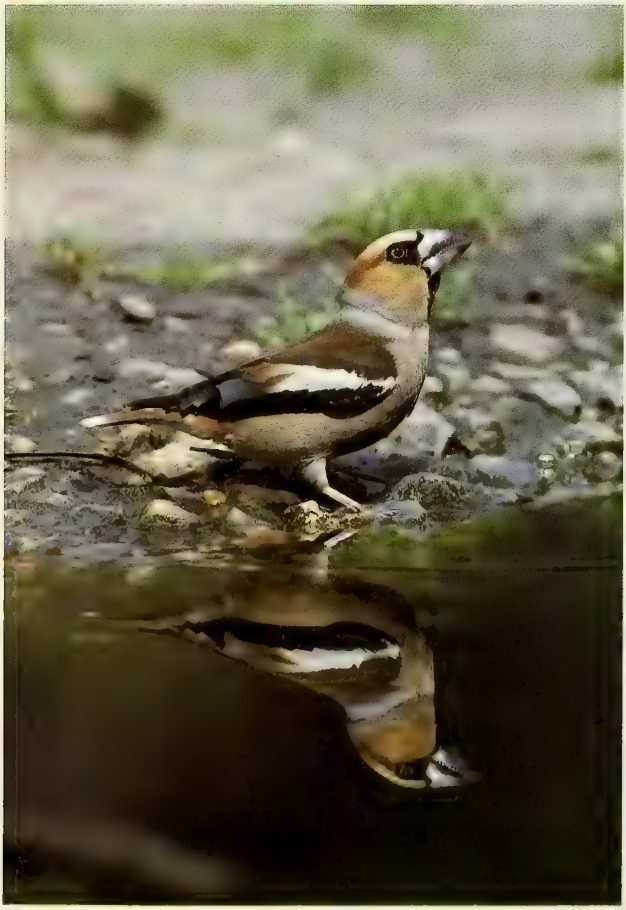
123. Pair of Collared Doves *Streptopelia decaocto*, female sunning, male preening, Warwickshire, July 1991 (Canon T90; 500 mm; 1/250th, f.8; Kodachrome 64) (*Tony Hamblin*)

124. Juvenile Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* with captured Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Oman, September 1991 (Canon F.1; 300 mm; f5.6, auto; Kodachrome 200) (*Conrad Greaves*)





125. Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, Netherlands, April 1991 (Canon A1; 600 mm; 1/60, f.4.5; Kodachrome 64) (*Mike Weston*)



126. Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* drinking, Kent, August 1991 (Nikon F801; Nikon 600 mm with 1.4 converter; 1/125th, f.5.6; Kodachrome 64) (*Terry Button*)

caught. The herons of the Sultanate of Oman seem to be particularly predatory in their behaviour towards other birds, this being the second occasion on which Conrad Greaves has captured the habit in a photograph (cf. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* eating a Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, *Brit. Birds* 84: 57-58, plate 56). This Purple Heron spent a considerable time breaking the Snipe with its bill, with much shaking of its head; it later tried to swallow the Snipe, but failed, abandoning the carcase.

Although constantly looking for action shots, especially those depicting interesting bird behaviour, the judges are sometimes so attracted by an aesthetically pleasing photograph that it forces its way into the short-list. The Woodpigeon amongst the red cherry blossoms (plate 125) is just such an instance. The tree is one of two in the garden below Mike Weston's flat in The Hague, and every year for many years he has set up his tripod and camera with 600-mm lens, as soon as the trees come into flower, in the hope of getting just such a photograph against this pleasing background.

T. R. Button's portrait of a drinking Hawfinch (plate 126) is the result of the 'wait-and-see' technique. It was not until five days after first erecting his hide near a puddle in a farm track through a small copse that he saw the first Hawfinch, and it was only after another two weeks of patient waiting that one came when photographic conditions were right and the puddle was not in shade. As Terry Button himself commented, it is unusual for a reflection to be so clear and to show almost as much detail as the bird itself.

Several of this year's other entries will be published later, in PhotoSpot or accompanying notes on behaviour depicted in the photographs.

J. T. R. Sharrock, R. J. Chandler and Don Smith
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

The 'British Birds' Best Annual Bird Report Award



This, the first annual competition, was very well supported, with 47 entries (see Appendix). As expected, the general standard was very high, for the production of an annual report has for around half a century been one of the major aims of each of the county and regional bird clubs which cover Britain and Ireland, and which have served as models for many others throughout the world. We were, for example, assessing the sixtieth report on *Birds in Cornwall*, the fifty-fifth *London Bird Report* and the forty-third *Sussex Bird Report*, though there were also several relative newcomers, such as the twelfth *Borders Bird Report* and the twentieth *Leigh Ornithological Society Annual Report*.

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 299-308, June 1992]

How can reports be compared fairly when they come in differing shapes, sizes and lengths; may have differing aims; cover areas ranging in size from less than a dozen 10-km squares to several neighbouring counties combined; and are funded, in some cases, out of their own pockets by a dozen or so individuals, but in others by a thriving parent society with hundreds of members, sales outlets and commercial sponsorship? With difficulty!

The judges had themselves, however, all been involved in the compilation or publishing of annual bird reports, and two had been closely connected a decade or so ago with the preparation of guidelines for bird-report editors at specialist meetings of the Bird Report Editors' Committee, held in Oxford, Bristol and Swanwick, under the aegis of the BTO. Two of us had also made extensive use of material gleaned from published bird reports in our own ornithological studies. In addition, an article entitled 'The County Bird Report—a critique' by Colin Whiteman (*The Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary 1985*, pp. 18-22) had set out in a very clear fashion many of the points that the judges also considered to be important. In the event, 23 separate aspects of annual bird reports were assessed (some on presence/absence, scored as 1 or 0; and others on quality, scored on a scale from 0 to 3). These ranged from the thoroughness and usefulness of the systematic list (considered to be the essential core to any report) and the inclusion of a map of the area covered, a review of the climate and weather during the year, and so on, to the layout and design, clarity for the reader (typefaces used and spacing) and attractiveness of front-cover design, and any drawings or photographs with the text.

It was the aim of each individual judge to select the best report on the basis of the quality of its contents, not on the lushness of its production. Even before the assessments started, each judge separately expressed his personal hope that the winner might be a cheaply produced (even, perhaps, a cyclo-styled) report compiled by a tiny local group of enthusiasts. Certainly, such a report would not have been at any disadvantage during the judging process. The inclusion of numerous, expensive colour photographs or a large number of pages did not bias any of the judges in favour of the reports produced by large, rich bird clubs or societies. These explanations are necessary, since this year's winner and runners-up are mostly thick, beautifully produced reports. That, however, was not why they were selected. The top reports all have the high-quality factual information which is the raison d'être of any regional bird report—to summarise what has been seen in the area during the past year for the club's members and also for posterity.

Enough of the background; the winner and runners-up this year were:

Best Annual Bird Report of the Year 1990

1st **SUFFOLK BIRDS 1991**
vol. 40 incorporating the County Bird Report of 1990
Editor **S. H. Piotrowski** *Assistant Editor* **P. W. Murphy**
Photographic Editor **J. Levene**
Published by **Suffolk Naturalists' Society**



Fig. 1. The Best Annual Bird Report of the Year: winner (*Suffolk*) and the four runners-up (*Cornwall*, *Norfolk*, *Shetland* and *Derbyshire*)

2nd

BIRDS IN CORNWALL 1990
Sixtieth Annual Report 1990
Editor S. M. Christophers *Assistant Editor* E. J. Cook
Published by Cornwall Bird-Watching and Preservation Society

3rd

NORFOLK BIRD & MAMMAL REPORT 1990
Editors Michael J. Seago *(birds) and* Rex Hancy *(mammals)*
Published by The Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society *in conjunction with* Norfolk Ornithologists Association

4th

SHETLAND BIRD REPORT 1990
Editor Kevin Osborn
Published by Shetland Bird Club

5th

DERBYSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990
Editor R. M. R. James
Published by The Derbyshire Ornithological Society

Other short-listed bird reports (and their editors): *Argyll* (S. J. Petty); *Borders* (R. D. Murray); *Caradon* (Steve Madge); *Cheshire and Wirral* (D. J. Steventon); *Cork* (Peter Leonard & Mark Shorten); *Cumbria* (M. F. Carrier); *Irish East Coast* (Tom Cooney, Brian Madden & Michael O'Donnell); *Isle of Wight NH & A Soc.* (J. Stafford); *Isle of Wight Orn. Group* (P. McAndrew & D. B. Wooldridge); *Leigh* (Paul Pugh); *London* (M. A. Hardwick); *Martin Mere Refuge* (Dominic Rigby); *Northamptonshire* (Robert W. Bullock); *Orkney* (Chris Booth, Mildred Cuthbert & Eric Meek); *Sheffield* (J. Hornbuckle & S. J. Roddis); *Sussex* (P. F. Bonham); *Upton Warren* (Stuart Croft & John Belsey).

Those responsible for the compilation and production of all of the 22 short-listed reports deserve congratulations, for every one contained features which particularly impressed the judges. Indeed, the labour involved in the preparation of all 47 reports submitted amounts to a phenomenal effort, almost wholly by amateur birdwatchers in their spare time.

The closing date of the competition (15th December 1991 for 1990 reports) automatically makes relatively prompt publication a major criterion. The judges do appreciate that this currently disqualified certain excellent reports (e.g. *Kent*, for which the 1989 report was submitted for the judges' interest, even though the editor realised that it was ineligible), and also that, once a county society has 'got behind' in its publishing schedule, there may be financial difficulties in 'catching up', since this would mean publishing and mailing two reports in one year. Nevertheless, it is an important service to members that their annual report should appear reasonably soon after the events which it summarises, so we believe that publication within the following year is a justifiable rule of eligibility.

This summary cannot cover the large number of aspects of bird-report compilation and production which were discussed by the judges. Some flavour of the visual aspects can, however, be given by a selection of some of the best cover designs. We particularly liked the simple, uncluttered, bold, eye-catching designs of the *Cork*, *Northamptonshire* and *Orkney* reports (featuring drawings by Russ Heselden, Rodney Ingram and Donald Watson, respectively), and the imaginative wrap-around design (by P. Leonard) used on the *Sheffield* report (see fig. 2).

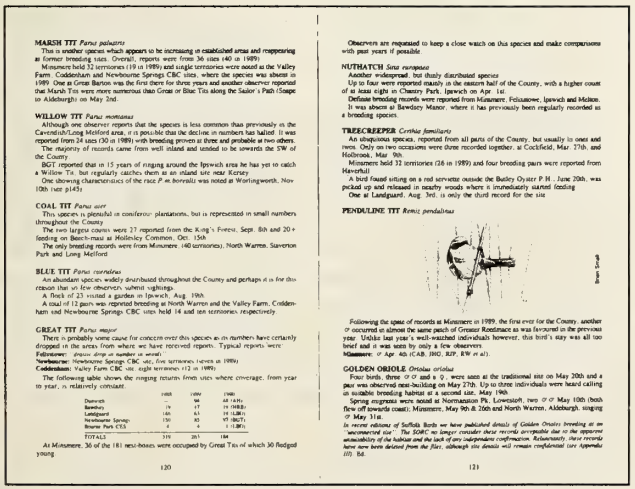


Fig. 2. Examples of good cover designs (*Cork*, *Northamptonshire*, *Orkney* and *Sheffield*)

Many reports included a selection of photographs, sometimes in black-and-white but surprisingly frequently (in view of the high cost) in colour. While the addition of high-quality photographs can enhance the appearance of a report, and perhaps increase casual sales, the judges did not regard this as an essential element. If photographs are included, however, they clearly have to be relevant and well produced; this was not always the case. Some reports included a selection of photographs of rarities; these were occasionally of high quality, but more often were out-of-focus or with the bird half hidden, but, if valuable as documentation of the record, this was not regarded as a fault. It is, however, obviously better to have no photographs than to have poor-quality ones of common birds.

Several reports featured very good photographs or excellent line-drawings, but one stood out by having both. The quality of illustrations in the *Norfolk Bird Report* reflects not only the talent among the photographers and artists featured, and the skill of the editorial team in bringing these together, but also the funds available to the societies responsible for the report's production. The judges greatly admired this report, but those produced with more modest budgets were at no disadvantage in the scoring. We did remark, however, how lucky some counties are to have local talent, such as Dennis Coutts and Larry Dalziel (*Shetland Bird Report*), Stan Dumican and Jack Levene (*Suffolk Birds*) or Robin Chittenden and Chris Knights (*Norfolk*).

Design and layout—particularly the use of capitals, bold type, italics, spacing and so on—essential if the masses of data are to be made easy on the eye and easy to refer to, was very variable, but almost all reports gave the impression that someone had tried to do a good job. Many failed, however, usually owing to poor division of the space between and within separate sections. We thought that *Suffolk* was one of the best (fig. 3), with clearly separated entries, bold headings that stood out, and good use of tables, and that *Leigh* was a first-rate example amongst the more cheaply produced reports.



MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

This is another species which appears to be increasing in established areas and reappearing as former breeding sites. Overall, reports were from 36 sites (40 in 1989).

Minsmere held 32 territories (19 in 1989) and single territories were noted at the Valley Farm, Coddenham and Newbourne Springs CBC sites, where the species was absent in 1989. One at Great Barton was the first there for three years and another observer reported that Marsh Tits were more numerous than Great or Blue Tits along the Sailor's Path (Snape to Aldeburgh) on May 2nd.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Although one observer reports that the species is less common than previously in the Cavendish/Long Melford area, it is possible that the decline in numbers has halted. It was reported from 24 sites (30 in 1989) with breeding proven at three and probable at two others.

The majority of records came from well inland and tended to be towards the SW of the County.

BGT reported that in 15 years of ringing around the Ipswich area he has yet to catch a Willow Tit but regularly catches them at an inland site near Kersey.

One showing characteristics of the race *P. m. borealis* was noted at Worlingworth, Nov-10th (see p143).

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

This species is plentiful in coniferous plantations, but is represented in small numbers throughout the County.

The two largest counts were 27 reported from the King's Forest, Sept. 8th and 20+ feeding on Beech-mast at Hollesley Common, Oct. 15th.

The only breeding records were from Minsmere. (40 territories), North Warren, Staverton Park and Long Melford.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

An abundant species widely distributed throughout the County and perhaps it is for this reason that so few observers submit sightings.

A flock of 23 visited a garden in Ipswich, Aug. 19th.

A total of 12 pairs was reported breeding at North Warren and the Valley Farm, Coddenham and Newbourne Springs CBC sites held 14 and ten territories respectively.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

There is probably some cause for concern over this species as its numbers have certainly dropped in the areas from where we have received reports. Typical reports were:

Felixstowe: *present, drop in number in overall.*

Newbourne: Newbourne Springs CBC site, five territories (seven in 1989).

Coddenham: Valley Farm CBC site, eight territories (12 in 1989).

The following table shows the ringing returns from sites where coverage, from year to year, is relatively constant.

	1988	1989	1990
Dunwich	—	98	68 (-41%)
Bawdsey	29	37	19 (-48%)
Landguard	165	63	95 (+28%)
Newbourne Springs	170	90	95 (-36%)
Bourne Park CES	5	6	3 (-50%)
TOTALS	369	293	280

At Minsmere, 36 of the 181 nest-boxes were occupied by Great Tits of which 30 fledged young.

Observers are requested to keep a close watch on this species and make comparisons with past years if possible.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Another widespread, but thinly distributed species.

Up to four were reported mainly in the eastern half of the County, with a higher count of at least eight in Chantry Park, Ipswich on Apr. 1st.

Definite breeding records were reported from Minsmere, Felixstowe, Ipswich and Melton.

It was absent at Bawdsey Manor, where it has previously been regularly recorded as a breeding species.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

An ubiquitous species, reported from all parts of the County, but usually in ones and twos. Only on two occasions were three recorded together, at Cockfield, Mar. 17th, and Holbrook, Mar. 9th.

Minsmere held 32 territories (26 in 1989) and four breeding pairs were reported from Haverhill.

A bird found sitting on a red servisette outside the Butley Oyster P.H., June 20th, was picked up and released in nearby woods where it immediately started feeding.

One at Landguard, Aug. 3rd, is only the third record for the site.

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus*

Brian Small

Following the spate of records at Minsmere in 1989, the first ever for the County, another ♂ occurred at almost the same patch of Grasser Reedmace as was favoured in the previous year. Unlike last year's well-watched individuals however, this bird's stay was all too brief and it was seen by only a few observers.

Minsmere: ♂ Apr. 4th (C.AB., IRC, RJP, RW et al).

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

Four birds, three ♂♂ and a ♀, were seen at the traditional site on May 20th and a pair was observed nest-building on May 27th. Up to three individuals were heard calling at suitable breeding habitat at a second site, May 19th.

Spring migrants were noted at Normanston Pk, Lowestoft, two ♂♂ May 10th (both flew off towards coast); Minsmere, May 9th & 20th and North Warren, Aldeburgh, singing ♂ May 31st.

In recent editions of Suffolk Birds we have published details of Golden Orioles breeding at an 'unconnected site'. The SORC no longer consider these records acceptable due to the apparent unsuitability of the habitat and the lack of any independent confirmation. Reluctantly, these records have now been deleted from the files, although this denials will remain confidential (see Appendix III) Ed.

Fig. 3. Example of good design and typography (*Suffolk*)

All but one of the reports included a scattering of decorative line-drawings, often by several accomplished artists. Fewer included annotated drawings in documentation of records, which is an aspect which could usefully be developed; we especially liked Andrew Birch's drawings of Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* in *Isle of Wight Birds* (see fig. 4), John Waters's drawings of Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* in *Birds in Cornwall* and Brian Small's drawing of Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* in *Suffolk Birds.*



Fig. 4. Example of annotated documentary drawings (by Andrew Birch from *Isle of Wight NH&AS*)

In acknowledgment that it is the single most important part of every annual report, each systematic list was subjected to detailed examination. Most included many data, but an analytical and explanatory approach was considered to be especially helpful, for the benefit of present members (especially the education of beginners) and for posterity. 'One on 25th May' is pretty meaningless unless accompanied by a comment such as 'the first migrant of the year', 'the latest-ever lingering winterer', 'only the fifth record for this isolated island', or whatever. Similarly, '450 on 19th March' is a useless record until we learn that it represents 'the peak winter count' or 'the only record of over 150 for six years', or whatever.

Many reports included a status summary for each species, varying from a simple (or a complicated) code of letters/numbers to a one-line or two-line summary sentence at the start of each species entry. This was recommended some years ago and the majority of current report editors still heed the advice. It is very helpful to beginners and also to anyone from outside the recording area. Two of the best examples of this were in *Birds in Cornwall* and the *Derbyshire Bird Report* (fig. 5). This is actually one of the few ways in which even our winner, *Suffolk Birds*, could be improved. That report, however, was one of the few which had an interesting and readable systematic list; several were dauntingly solid accumulations of numbers and dates which would have benefited from considerable sifting, sorting, and selection, with the space gained thereby being used for explanations.

Almost all reports included each species' scientific name as well as its English name. All should. Most systematic lists included every species recorded

REDSTART - Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Uncommon summer resident, almost exclusively confined to Bodmin Moor and the broadleaved woodlands around Bodmin. Breeds. Passage migrant.
Spring passage commenced with a male at Kelsey Head Mar 26th - the earliest since 1984 and the third earliest ever. **PJD.**
A total of c.38 migrants was reported - the best passage since 1980.
26 (66%) of these were noted Apr 22nd to 24th and included 16 at Rame Head on

SNIPE. *Gallinago gallinago.* A fairly common summer visitor to gritstone moorland but now scarce as a breeding species in the lowlands, where it is a common winter visitor and passage migrant.

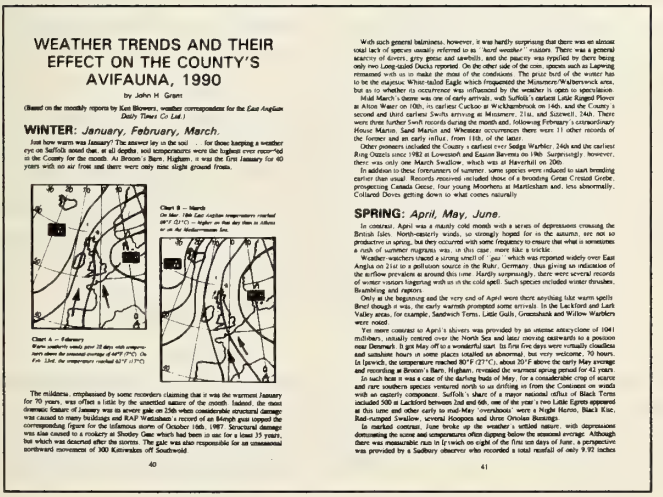
No definite breeding records were received but drumming/displaying birds were recorded from early April at: East Moor, three pairs—APH APM; East Moor/Gibbet Moor, seven/eight territories located during survey—APM *et al;* Ramsley Res., four in May—SBSG; Elvaston Quarry, one on 22nd Apr.—RWK; Ironbower Moss, four in May—DPM; and also from Broadhurst Edge, Ollersett Moor, Totley Moss, Ringinglow Bog, White Edge and Dovestones Tor.

Outside the breeding season, there were records of up to 30 birds from many localities with the maxima at various sites: R. Erewash at Bennerley, 123 on 7th Mar.—MP; Williamthorpe, 83 on

Fig. 5. Examples of good summary paragraphs in the systematic list (*Cornwall* and *Derbyshire*)

during the year. Those that didn't should. Surprisingly, our third-placed report, *Norfolk*, so good in many other ways, failed on both these points.

A review of the year's climate and weather in the area is a valuable adjunct to the year's bird records. The review by John H. Grant in our winner, *Suffolk Birds*, was especially impressive, with relevant weather maps (fig. 6). When funds allow, a month-by-month review of the year's highlights (of common birds as well as rarities) is a useful addition to the systematic list.



WEATHER TRENDS AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE COUNTY'S AVIFAUNA, 1990

by John H. Grant

(Based on the monthly reports by Ken Blowers, weather correspondent for the *East Anglian Daily Times Co Ltd.*)

WINTER: *January, February, March.*

Just how warm was January? The answer lay in the soil . . . for those keeping a weather eye on Suffolk stood that, at all depths, soil temperatures were the highest ever recorded in the County for the month. At Bentley's Barn, Higham, it was the first January for 40 years with no air frost and there were only nine slight ground frosts.

Chart A — February
Warm southerly winds gave 21 days with temperatures above the seasonal average of 40°F (5°C). On Feb. 22nd, the temperature reached 61°F (17°C).

Chart B — March
On Mar. 18th East Anglian temperatures reached 68°F (21°C) — higher on that day than in Athens or on the Mediterranean Sea.

The mildness, emphasised by some recorders claiming that it was the warmest January for 70 years, was often a fable by the unsettled nature of the month. Indeed, the most dramatic feature of January was its severe gale on 25th when considerable structural damage was caused to many buildings and RAF Wattisham's record of an 84mph gust topped the corresponding figure for the infamous storm of October 16th, 1987. Structural damage was also caused to a rookery at Shotley Gate which had been in use for a least 35 years, but which was deserted after the storms. The gale was also responsible for an unseasonal northward movement of 300 Kittiwakes off Southwold

40

With such general balminess, however, it was hardly surprising that there was an almost total lack of specimen usually referred to as "hard weather" visitors. There was a general scarcity of divers, grey geese and sawbills, and the paucity was typified by there being only two Long-tailed Ducks reported. On the other side of the coin, species such as Lapwing remained with us to make the most of the conditions. The prize bird of the winter has to be the majestic White-tailed Eagle which frequented the Minsmere/Walberswick area, but as to whether its occurrence was influenced by the weather is open to speculation.

Mild March's theme was one of early arrivals, with Suffolk's earliest Little Ringed Plover at Alton Water on 10th, its earliest Cuckoo at Wickhambrook on 14th, and the County's second and third earliest Swifts arriving at Minsmere, 21st, and Sizewell, 24th. There were three further Swift records during the month and, following February's extraordinary House Martin, Sand Martin and Wheatear occurrences there were 11 other records of the former and an early influx, from 11th, of the latter.

Other pioneers included the County's earliest ever Sedge Warbler, 24th and the earliest Ring Ouzels since 1982 at Lowestoft and Easton Bavents on 19th. Surprisingly however, there was only one March Swallow, which was at Haverhill on 20th.

In addition to these forerunners of summer, some species were reduced to start breeding earlier than usual. Records received included those of a breeding Great Crested Grebe, prospecting Canada Geese, four young Moorhens at Martlesham and, less abnormally, Collared Doves getting down to what comes naturally.

SPRING: *April, May, June.*

In contrast, April was a mainly cold month with a series of depressions crossing the British Isles. North-easterly winds, so strongly hoped for in the autumn, are not so productive in spring, but they occurred with some frequency to ensure that what is sometimes a rush of summer migrants was, in this case, more like a trickle.

Weather-watchers traced a strong smell of gas which was reported widely over East Anglia on 21st to a pollution source in the Ruhr, Germany, thus giving an indication of the airflow prevalent at around this time. Hardly surprisingly, there were several records of winter visitors lingering with us in the cold spell. Such species included winter thrushes, Brambling and raptors.

Only at the beginning and the very end of April were there anything like warm spells. Brief though it was, the early warmth prompted some arrivals. In the Lackford and Lark Valley areas, for example, Sandwich Terns, Little Gulls, Greenshank and Willow Warblers were noted.

Yet more contrast to April's shivers was provided by an intense anticyclone of 1041 millibars, initially centred over the North Sea and later moving eastwards to a position near Denmark. It got May off to a wonderful start. Its first few days were virtually cloudless and sunshine hours in some places totalled an abnormal, but very welcome, 70 hours. In Ipswich, the temperature reached 80°F (27°C), about 20°F above the early May average and recording at Bentley's Barn, Higham, revealed the warmest spring period for 42 years.

In such heat it was a case of the darling buds of May, for a considerable crop of scarce and rare southern species ventured north to us drifting in from the Continent on winds with an easterly component. Suffolk's share of a major national influx of Black Terns included 500 at Lackford between 2nd and 6th, one of the year's two Little Egrets appeared at this time and other early to mid-May 'overshoots' were a Night Heron, Black Kite, Red-rumped Swallow, several Hoopoes and three Orpheon Bunnings.

In marked contrast, June broke up the weather's settled nature with depressions dominating the scene and temperatures often dipping below the seasonal average. Although there was measurable rain in 17 each on eight of the first ten days of June, a perspective was provided by a Sudbury observer who recorded a total rainfall of only 9.92 inches

41

Fig. 6. Example of good weather section (*Suffolk*)

Recording-area maps varied from those showing merely the boundaries and a few major towns, to excellent maps with 10-km square limits and all the major bird localities. *Birds in Cornwall* included an excellent example, with

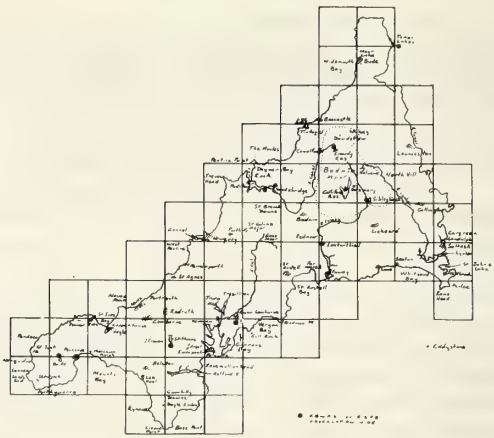


Fig. 7. Example of good area map (*Cornwall*)

handwritten (but clearly readable) place names on a double-page spread (fig.7).

All the reports submitted are listed in the Appendix. This list includes two reports from Norfolk, but we are glad to see co-operation between the organisations concerned and little or no overlap in coverage. It also, however, includes two from the Isle of Wight, one produced by the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society and the other by the Isle of Wight Ornithological Group. There is great overlap; some records appear in both reports, some in just one, but neither gives the complete picture. We do not want to enter into the 'politics' involved, but do urge the two groups concerned to bury their differences and, in the interests of ornithology, both within and beyond the Isle of Wight, to join forces and co-operate to produce just one comprehensive report for the island. Both reports have great merit, and both were short-listed by us. Clearly, both organisations contain dedicated enthusiasts. Ornithology can only gain by co-operation between them.

Finally, we give our congratulations to the winning team within the Suffolk Naturalists' Society which produced *Suffolk Birds 1991*, future issues of which are now entitled to carry the *British Birds* logo, and to its editor, S. H. Piotrowski, who has received an inscribed book of his choice as a permanent personal memento of this achievement.

J. T. R. SHARROCK, R. J. CHANDLER and ROBERT GILLMOR
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Appendix. Annual reports submitted for consideration for the 'British Birds' Best Bird Report of the Year Award

The title of the current issue is given, followed by the address from which a copy can be obtained and, if known, its current price (please supply a suitable SAE or add an appropriate sum for postage and packing).

Alderley Park and Radnor Mere Wildlife Report 1990 A. H. Pulsford, 21 Swaledale Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2BY.

Angus and Dundee Bird Report 1990 Martin S. Scott, 33 John Street, Arbroath, Angus, Tayside DD11 1BT. £3.00.

The Seventh Argyll Bird Report N. J. Scriven, Ardentinny Centre, Ardentinny, Dunoon, Argyll.

Avon Bird Report 1990 H. E. Rose, 12 Birbeck Road, Bristol BS9 1BD.

Borders Bird Report No. 12 R. D. Murray, 4 Bellfield Crescent, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8RQ. £3.75.

The Caradon Field & Natural History Club 1990 Annual Report Steve Madge, 2 Church Row, Sheviock, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 3EH. £3.25.

Cheshire & Wirral Bird Report 1990 D. J. Steventon, Welland House, 207 Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2PX. £3.50.

The Birds of Christchurch Harbour 1990 Paul Morrison, 33 Minterne Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 3LD. £2.00.

County of Cleveland Bird Report for 1990 (ineligible, received after closing date, indeed after judging completed) J. B. Dunnett, 43 Hemlington Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG.

Cork Bird Report 1990 Peter G. Leonard, 12 Douglas Hall Lawn, Off Well Road, Cork, Ireland. £3.00.

Birds in Cornwall 1990 Stanley M. Christophers, 5 Newquay Road, St Columb Major, Cornwall TR9 6RW. £4.00 (including p&p).

Birds of Cumbria: A County Natural History Report for 1990 M. F. Carrier, Tiree, 6 Brackenrigg, Armathwaite, Carlisle, Cumbria. £3.00.

Derbyshire Bird Report 1990 R. M. R. James, 43 Briar Lea Close, Sinfin, Derby DE2 9PB. £4.00 (including p&p).

East Lancashire Ornithologists Club Bird Report 1990 Eric Davis, 7 Rock Lane, Trawden, Colne, Lancashire BB8 8RR.

Fife Bird Report 1990 45 Hawthorn Terrace, Thornton, Fife KY1 4DZ.

Filey Brigg Bird Report 1990 John Harwood, 13 West Garth Gardens, Canton, Scarborough, Yorkshire. £3.00.

Gwent Bird Report 1990 B. J. Gregory, Monmouth School, Monmouth NP5 3XP. £3.00.

Hertfordshire Bird Report 1990 Bruce Taggart, 2 Yew Tree Cottages, Colliers End, Ware, Hertfordshire SG11 1EQ.

Heywood Bird Report 1990-1991 (ineligible, received after closing date, indeed after judging completed) M. C. Cooper, 3 Brook Gardens, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 3EP. £1.50.

Irish East Coast Bird Report 1990 Tom Cooney, 42 All Saints Road, Raheny, Dublin 5, Ireland. IR£4.00.

Isle of Wight Birds 1990 John Stafford, Westering, Moor Lane, Brighstone, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 4DL. £3.25.

Isle of Wight Ornithological Group Bird Report 1990 D. B. Wooldridge, Pictou, Church Street, Niton, Isle of Wight PO38 2BX. £3.00.

Kent Bird Report 1989 (ineligible, 1990 report not yet published) Don Taylor, 1 Rose Cottages, Old Loose Hill, Loose, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0BN. £4.50.

Lancashire Bird Report 1990 J. M. Butterworth, 7 Hayling Road, Sale, Cheshire. £3.00.

Leicestershire & Rutland Bird Report 1990 Dave Gamble, 2 Shanklin Gardens, Leicester Forest East, Leicester LE3 3JR. £3.00 (plus 34p p&p).

Leigh Ornithological Society Annual Report 1990 C. A. Darbyshire, 48 Tennyson Drive, Billinge, Lancashire WN5 7EJ.

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1990 (ineligible, received after closing date, indeed after judging completed) R. K. Watson, 8 High Street, Skegness, Lincolnshire PE25 3NW. £3.75.

London Bird Report 1990 Mark A. Hardwick, Flat 12, 9-11 Belsize Grove, London NW3 4UU. £3.50.

Lothian Bird Report 1990 Onagh McGary, c/o The Scottish Ornithologists' Club, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT. £4.00.

Birds on the Malvern Hills and Commons in 1990 Mrs J. Parr, 24 Christchurch Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3BE. £1.50.

Martin Mere Refuge Report 1990/91 Dominic Rigby, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Martin Mere, Burscough, Nr Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0TA. £2.50.

Merseyside Ringing Group Annual Report 1990 6 The Spinney, Parkgate, South Wirral L64 6RX. £2.50.

Nar Valley Ornithological Society Fourteenth Annual Report 1990 R. J. Walker, Restensgeo, The Street, Sporle, Swaffham, Norfolk PE32 2DR.

New Swillington Ings Bird Group 2nd Annual Report 1990 P. R. Morris, 43 Highthorne Drive, Leeds LS17 8NY.

Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 1990 Mrs M. Dorling, 6 New Road, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3HH. £3.00.

Norfolk Ornithologists Association Annual Report 1990 Peter Clarke, Aslack Way, Holme Next Sea, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 6LP.

Northamptonshire Bird Report 1991 Robert W. Bullock, 81 Cavendish Drive, Northampton NN3 3HL. £3.95 (including p&p).

North Cotswold Bird Report 1990 P. H. Dymott, Green Acres, Swindon Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 9QC.

Birds in Northumbria 1990 Ian Kerr, 27 Eddrington Grove, Chapel House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE5 1JG. £3.40.

Orkney Bird Report 1990 C. J. Booth, 34 High Street, Kirkwall, Orkney. £2.50.

Outer Hebrides Bird Report 1989 and 1990 T. J. Dix, 2 Dreumasdal, South Uist, Western Isles PA81 5RT. £3.50.

Birds in the Sheffield Area 1990 Tony Morris, Sheffield Bird Study Group, 4A Raven Road, Nether Edge, Sheffield S7 1SB. £2.50.

Shetland Bird Report 1990 Kevin Osborn, 20 Nederdale, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0SA. £4.00 (including p&p).

Shoreham District Ornithological Society Report 1990 R. A. Ives, 90 Downlands Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex. £2.00.

Soar 1990 Bird Report A. C. Cole, 39 Weymouth Park, Hope Cove, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3HD.

Suffolk Birds 1991 The Editor, c/o The Museum, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. £5.00.

The Sussex Bird Report No. 43 J. E. Trowell, Lorrimer, Main Road, Ickleham, Winchelsea TN36 4BS. £3.50 (including p&p).

Birds of Upton Warren 1989/'90 C. H. Roe, Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill, Hindlip, Worcester WR3 8SZ. £2.00.

The Birds of Valley Park and Dunstall Park 1990 F. Dickson, 11 Arthur Greenwood Court, Coronation Road, Bilston, West Midlands WV14 0HS.

Welsh Harp Report No. 4 November 1991 John Colmans, 52 Grange Avenue, London N12 8DL. £1.00.

Notes



Foot-trembling behaviour of Dotterel On the evening of 29th March 1989, on the top of Pendle Hill, east Lancashire, I spent 40 minutes observing three Dotterels *Charadrius morinellus* at ranges down to 10 m, using a ×25 telescope. Two of the three were foot-trembling throughout my period of observation. According to *BWP* (vol. 3), foot-trembling by this species has been observed on bare soil, but these individuals were on a stony area interspersed with short sheep-grazed turf, where they were feeding. They rapidly vibrated sometimes the right foot, sometimes the left. Occasionally the prey items thus obtained (apparently insect larvae) were in reach, but in most cases the Dotterels would dash forward 10-20 cm to seize items by

probing in the turf; after a successful foray, they would move on a metre or so and repeat the process. I estimated that all three Dotterels, whether foot-trembling or not, were obtaining food at the rate of about one item per minute; thus, the non-trembling individual was just as successful as the two foot-tremblers. I was unable to determine the sex of the individuals concerned, as they had barely started to develop their breeding plumage.

ANTHONY A. COOPER
28 Peel Park Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1ET

Sequential polyandry by Golden Plovers In a population study of Golden Plovers *Pluvialis apricaria* on moorland at Kerloch, Kincardineshire, I found that most individuals paired for life (Parr 1980). Whenever they had new mates, their original mates were usually absent and presumed dead. Nethersole-Thompson & Nethersole-Thompson (1961) thought that some females might have two males when the latter were in excess, but found no evidence to support this. At Kerloch, I recorded three cases of polyandry, involving pairs in which both sexes were colour-ringed.

CASE 1 Pair *A* successfully hatched young on 16th May 1981. Two days later, the female was 700m away on a different territory with an unringed male; on 27th May, she laid in her second nest. Meanwhile, her original mate reared her first brood on his own. In 1982, this female was with her new mate and male *A* had a different mate.

CASE 2 Pair *B* successfully hatched young on 18th May 1981. Four days later, the female was on a territory 1,200m away with an unringed male; the two showed courtship behaviour, but no nest was found. In 1982, the female had returned to her original mate.

CASE 3 In 1983, pair *C*'s behaviour strongly suggested the existence of a nest. When the pair deserted its territory on 12th May, however, I assumed that the nest had been robbed. Female *C* was later seen on 16th May on a different territory 500m away with an unringed male; both plovers were excited, showing spring-like activity, with much calling and chasing, but no nest was found. In 1984, this female was paired with male *A* (SEE CASE 1, above).

None of these females was seen with a second mate while still paired with the first, and *vice versa*. Among other species in which polyandry sometimes occurs, such as Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (Nethersole-Thompson 1973), females seldom incubate, so they can have two mates at the same time. Female Golden Plovers, however, share incubation with the male (Parr 1980), and polyandrous females would have difficulty incubating at two nests. Having two mates in sequence overcomes this problem.

RAYMOND PARR
Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB3 4BY

REFERENCES

NETHERSOLE-THOMPSON, D. 1973. *The Dotterel.* Glasgow.

——, & NETHERSOLE-THOMPSON, C. 1961. The breeding behaviour of the British Golden Plover. In BANNERMAN, D. A., *The Birds of the British Isles*, vol. 10. Edinburgh & London.

PARR, R. 1980. Population study of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, using marked birds. *Ornis Scand.* 11: 179-189.

Feeding behaviour of Little Stints On 22nd October 1985, at Swakopmund, Namibia, I observed about ten Little Stints *Calidris minuta* feeding in a sheltered part of the estuary where the water was about 15 cm deep and



127 & 128. Little Stint *Calidris minuta* walking on floating plant fragments, Namibia, October 1985 (*Philip Perry*)



its surface completely covered by small plant fragments about 1-2 cm long. The stints fed from this surface by walking forward while flapping their wings high above their backs to prevent themselves from sinking; in this way they were able to peck at food items on or near the surface (plates 127 & 128). Between feeding bouts, the stints rested on floating branches that could support their weight.

PHILIP PERRY
10 Troutsdale Close, Marton Park, Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO16 5GN

Redshank habitually swimming to avoid human beings It is well known that Redshanks *Tringa totanus* and other waders will swim on occasions: to cross a saltmarsh creek or other channel, when feeding in deep water (e.g. *Brit. Birds* 39: 319; 62: 154), or even forming rafts when large numbers are disturbed from a high-tide roost (*Brit. Birds* 68: 429-430). Diving in the manner of a Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* has also been noted (*Brit. Birds* 73: 221-222). I can, however, put on record a series of observations concerning two individuals which habitually swam when disturbed by human beings.

This species is a rare migrant on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, so that daily observations of one and later two there for a week in October 1968 can be assumed to have related to the same individuals each day. They frequented a 4.5-ha freshwater lake, Lough Errul. When disturbed by a birdwatcher or islander walking around the margin of the lake, they did not merely fly to another part of the lake edge, but always flew out to the centre of the lake (where the water is several metres deep) and swam there, looking like phalaropes *Phalaropus*, until the disturbing human being departed. Thus, this was not an isolated instance of behaviour induced by an unexpected or unusual event, but was a deliberate escape tactic, used repeatedly. The first individual used it from the first time that it was seen; the second individual, which arrived a couple of days later, appeared to learn the strategy.

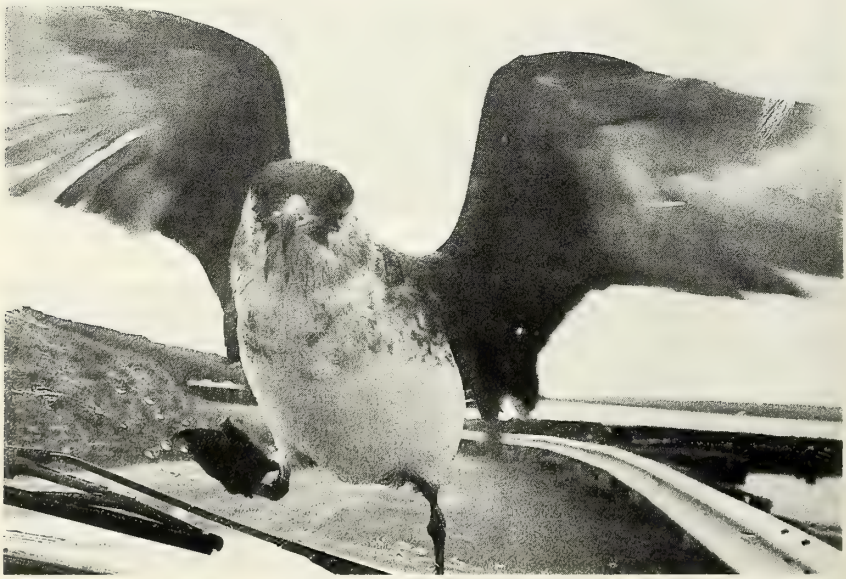
J. T. R. SHARROCK
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Exceptionally bold Pomarine Skua At about 11.00 GMT on 26th October 1985, I was informed that some Pomarine Skuas *Stercorarius pomarinus* were present near the Belmont pier, Unst, Shetland, and that one in particular seemed to be fairly tame. I proceeded to Belmont, armed with camera and binoculars. On arrival, I saw five Pomarine Skuas some distance off, flying or resting on the sea. One pale-phase, 'tatty-tailed' individual then took off about 300m away, headed towards my car and started circling it a few times, eyeing me through the windscreen every time it went past. It settled on the car bonnet and started to peck at the windscreen; I took one photograph, only to find that the camera lens was not fitted properly, and the skua flew off. About one minute later, the skua returned and settled on the car roof; waiting for it to come down on to the bonnet, I slowly put my hand out of the window and on to the roof, and was rewarded with a peck before the skua flew off again. Assuming that the skua was hungry, but having no food with me, I tore some bits off a kitchen roll, chewed them up until soggy and threw them on to the bonnet; once again the skua settled on the roof, eyeing the paper suspiciously, and only when I tapped on the windscreen did it jump down on to the bonnet, enabling me to photograph it (plates 129 & 130). It took off once more, flew in a wide circle and landed on the roof again; I put my hand up towards it and this time found its foot, at which it retaliated with four or five pecks, one of which drew a little blood. It then flew off in pursuit of a Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and did not return.

IAN SPENCE
Sunnyside, Uyeasound, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9DL



129 & 130. Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* on bonnet of car, Shetland, October 1985 (*Ian Spence*)



Black-headed Gull drinking flooding water On 12th November 1987, at the motorway service station at Rownhams, near Southampton, Hampshire, I noticed that, following recent rain, flood water was flowing downhill across the car park. An adult Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* walked into the area of flowing water and leaned forward until its chin and bill were flat on the ground. It then lowered its body until the breast made

contact with the surface, and it appeared to drink. This action was repeated several times, and on one occasion the gull walked slowly uphill whilst in the 'head-down' posture.

E. C. BRETT
3 Library Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 2QH

Dr K. E. L. Simmons has commented: 'I wonder if this could have been incipient bathing.' EDS

Lesser Black-backed Gull corpse scavenged by sheep The predation of ground-nesting birds by sheep has been described by R. W. Furness (*J. Zool.* 216: 565-573; *Bird Study* 35: 199-202). At the beginning of November 1988, during a visit to North Ronaldsay, Orkney, I observed one of the endemic North Ronaldsay sheep, which are confined to the shore by an extensive dyke and exist on the kelp exposed by the low tides, eating the feet of a dead Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. I found every dead bird that I examined on the shore to have had its feet, and in some cases the head, bitten off. The shore is composed largely of Roussay flags, but the eastern coast contains an extensive beach of lime-rich shell sand. Alison Duncan, the warden of the North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory, informed me (verbally) that it is very rare to find on the shore a bird corpse that has not been mutilated in this way.

PETER MCDOUGALL
Orchard House, Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe, Durham DH6 4ER

Grey Wagtail dividing clutch between two nests Instances of multiple nest-building noted by Eric Simms (1978, *British Thrushes*) reminded me of an example of 'split-clutch laying' which I attributed to the same or a similar set of stimuli: namely, the confusion caused by adjacent identical nesting sites. In 1985, between Pont-y-Gwyddel and Pont-y-Meredydd, near Llanfairtalhaiarn, Clwyd, a pair of Grey Wagtails *Motacilla cinerea* nested on two of a row of parallel-running girders under a bridge over the River Elwy. Two nests were present, about 40 cm apart, in exactly the same type of site, on ledges against the appropriate girders; one contained three eggs and the other two. Clearly, a single clutch was involved, and all eggs were fresh. Also of interest was that the nest with two eggs was the well-preserved remains of the previous year's nest.

P. I. MORRIS
Caughall Farmhouse Cottage, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, Cheshire CH2 4BW

Dr Stephanie Tyler has commented as follows: 'The phenomena of multiple nest-building and split-clutch laying are not uncommon among Grey Wagtails, nor indeed among Pied Wagtails *M. alba*, Dippers *Cinclus cinclus* and other species which nest in or under structures where there is a series of similar adjacent sites. In my 1972 paper on breeding biology of the Grey Wagtail (*Bird Study* 19: 69-80), I drew attention to multiple nest-building and noted four instances of this on ledges below bridges, two of which involved pairs laying part of their clutch in one nest and part in the other. Since then, Dr Steve Ormerod and I have recorded such split-clutch laying on several further occasions by both Grey Wagtails and Dippers in our Welsh study area. As for re-using or repairing the previous year's nest, this is quite a frequent occurrence with the Grey Wagtail where the nest site is sheltered from rain and snow, and again was recorded by me in the *Bird Study* paper.' EDS

Feeding behaviour of Marsh Tit A reference to Marsh Tits *Parus palustris* taking the fruits of spindle *Euonymus europaeus* (Perrins, 1979, *British Tits*) recalled the following. In autumn 1980, at Bryn Pydew, Gwynedd, I came

across a solitary Marsh Tit feeding on the fruits of snowberry *Symphoricarpos rivularis*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, dealing with each in a different manner. The large round fruits of the snowberry were too firmly anchored to the bush to be removed, or so I assumed, for the tit extracted the seeds from the spongy tissue in situ by dextrous mandibulation and tactile application of the tongue: it then carried the seeds a short distance into thick cover, where it dealt with them in the usual tit manner by clamping each seed to the perch with one foot and hammering it with the bill; I could not determine whether any of the flesh of the fruit was eaten. The clusters of honeysuckle fruits were treated similarly, except that the individual seed-bearing fruits were detached and taken into cover, the seed-extraction process being so messy that a small proportion of flesh must inevitably (or voluntarily?) have been swallowed; later examination of the temporary 'anvil' revealed many discarded and seedless fruits smeared on the branch and on the ground beneath, denoting that the seeds were certainly the principal target. The dry fruits of the spear thistle were likewise removed from the plant, great 'moustaches' of the pappus being carried off at a time, from which several seeds were extracted with audible pounding.

P. I. MORRIS
Caughall Farmhouse Cottage, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, Cheshire CH2 4BW

Feeding association between Coal Tits and Woodcock At 16.00 GMT on 22nd February 1986, in mixed woodland near West Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset, I saw a Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* probing repeatedly into leaf litter in a damp clearing, around which were mature trees of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and larch *Larix decidua*; at the time, it was cold and the ground was partly snow-covered. Surrounding the Woodcock, and feeding avidly on items obtained from the disturbed leaf litter, were eight to ten Coal Tits *Parus ater*, which followed the Woodcock as it worked along the banks of a small stream; the precise nature of the food they took could not be determined, but was probably mainly invertebrate. The feeding association continued for about five minutes, when the Woodcock flew off and the tits at once dispersed. Presumably, the Woodcock was feeding by day because of the cold, snowy conditions.

A. P. RADFORD
Crossways Cottage, West Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3EG

Use of House Martin nests by Blue Tits for breeding During an inquiry into the preferences of House Martins *Delichon urbica* for nesting sites on houses, I received details of a nest on a house in Stourbridge, West Midlands, in which a pair of Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* had bred in 1982 and 1983. In both years, the tits occupied the nest before the martins returned. In 1982, the outcome of breeding was not known, but in 1983 seven young tits fledged by 8th June. The nest was subsequently used in both years by martins. The use of House Martin nests by House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* for both roosting and breeding is well known (Summers-Smith 1963); the Swift *Apus apus* and the Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* are reported to have used one on at least one occasion each for breeding (Witherby *et al.* 1938; Armstrong 1955); and in the Soviet Union bats occasionally occupy them (Dementiev & Gladkov 1954). While I suspect that a pair of Blue

Tits used a House Martin nest in Thurnby, Leicestershire, as a roost, I have no other records of this species actually breeding in one in Britain, nor have I found any reference to it in the literature.

I wish to thank Mrs Southall of Stourbridge for the details of this interesting occurrence.

D. A. C. McNeil
175 Byron Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire

REFERENCES

Armstrong, E. A. 1955. *The Wren.* London.
Dementiev, G. P., & Gladkov, N. A. 1954. *Birds of the Soviet Union.* vol. 6. Israel Program for Scientific Translations.
Summers-Smith, J. D. 1963. *The House Sparrow.* London.
Witherby, H. F., Jourdain, F. C. R., Ticehurst, C. B., & Tucker, B. W. 1938. *The Handbook of British Birds.* vol. 2. London.

Attempted copulation by Great Tits during snowfall and freezing conditions At 11.00 GMT on 14th February 1986, at Rownhams, Southampton, Hampshire, I watched a pair of Great Tits *Parus major* chasing each other around an ash tree *Fraxinus excelsior.* The weather at the time was extremely wintry, with snow falling and the temperature below freezing, conditions which had persisted during most of the previous week. The male chased the female around the tree for several minutes, after which the pattern was reversed, with the female appearing dominant. Suddenly, the female adopted a 'chick-like' wing-quivering posture; as the male mounted and attempted to copulate with her, the female 'resisted' and immediately flew off with the male in pursuit. It is doubtful that any serious attempt to commence breeding was being made; perhaps this action was intended by both individuals to strengthen a pair-bond either recently developed or just beginning.

Greg Alexander
6 Arliss Road, Maybush, Southampton SO1 6DG

We sent Mr Alexander's note to the Edward Grey Institute and received the following comments from Roger Riddington and Ken Norris: 'SEX IN THE SNOW. Male Great Tits frequently engage in territorial behaviour at this time of year, suggesting that sexual activity during late winter would not be exceptional. Birds are, however, likely to engage in sexual activity only when their body condition is good. Perhaps these Great Tits had spent the earlier part of the day visiting feeders in local gardens, and were consequently not as "stressed" as the weather conditions would suggest. Mr Alexander's observation could indeed represent an early part of the pairing process.' Tongues firmly in their cheeks, they and Dr C. M. Perrins drew attention to the date of Mr Alexander's observations: St Valentine's Day. Eds

Great Grey Shrike eating hawthorn berries On 28th December 1980, at Oldacre Valley, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, Graham B. Degg and I were watching a Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* harassing a party of Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus* in a tall, thick hawthorn *Crataegus* about 90 m away. The shrike then flew towards us and landed in a small hawthorn 15 m away; through 10 × 40 binoculars and a 25-60× telescope, and in good light, we saw it take and swallow five hawthorn berries before flying to a bush 120 m away.

The late Johann C. Eyre Dickinson

Horst Mester, in his paper on the feeding habits of Great Grey Shrike in winter (*Brit. Birds* 58: 375-383), made no mention of any non-animal items in the diet of this species. Eds

Letters

Reidentification Our mystery photograph (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 212, repeated here) is obviously a plant, although the black-and-white plate denies us the opportunity to see the green which would suggest the presence of chlorophyll, thus enabling us to rule out virtually the whole animal kingdom, excepting *Amazona* parrots, the protozoan *Euglena* and the three-toed sloth *Bradypus*. The leaves are a useful pointer to our initial impression and the Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* is useful in providing a scale. We are, therefore, left with the possibility of any one of some 2,000 species of higher plant in northwest Europe (Sib, Ley, Mun, Ro & Splitter in prep.). But which one? Chandler *et al.* (1991) named it as a pear *Pyrus*, but how can they be so sure?



131. Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, Netherlands, August 1990 (*Mike Weston*)

The plant is clearly woody, so must be a tree or shrub and thus also a perennial. It is difficult to age precisely, but the size tells us that it is not a first-year. The twigs branch at acute angles, which rules out straight-growing species such as willows *Salix*, poplars *Populus* and many others. The leaves are hairless, elliptical and evenly toothed (almost serrated) with drip-tips. The veins are alternate, either side of the midrib. The long-stalked leaves are in crowded clusters at the distal end of the smaller shoots and in their axils are buds. The tree or shrub must be deciduous and, although it could be evergreen, this is unlikely in northwest Europe. The absence of either flowers or fruit makes instant identification difficult.

Does the Woodpigeon provide any clues? What species of tree do they sit in? Well, any one, except one with a Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* in it already. Looking closely at the leaf stalks, however, we can see

small glands near the base of the leaf blade: a feature indicative of the genus *Prunus*. The buds would be more tapered and sharply pointed in *Pyrus*, the leaves less toothy and more rounded and, furthermore, the Woodpigeon would, surely, have been a Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*? So, it seems that the initial identification was incorrect. The tree is in fact a cherry. It was photographed by Mike Weston in the Netherlands in August 1990. To an experienced observer, the jizz is unmistakable. Unfortunately, it looks like a cultivated specimen rather than a genuine wild one. SIMON ASPINALL

100 Cumberland Way, Dibden, Hampshire SO4 5TW

We have been careless again, and apologise. Obviously, Woodpigeons carry a jinx (cf. *Brit. Birds* 83: plate 59; 84: 226). EDS

Spectacled Warbler moult In the paper by Shirihai, Harris & Cottridge (*Brit. Birds* 84: 423), the tertials play an important part in the specific identification. I am surprised, therefore, that no mention was made of the fact that the Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* in plate 230 has replaced the smallest tertial feather on both wings. Renewed tertials appear brighter in colour and, being less worn, may well have a different shape, thus possibly confusing a field description. DAVID NORMAN

Rowswood Cottage, Ridding Lane, Sutton Weaver, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6PF

Alan Harris and Hadoram Shirihai have replied: 'David Norman is quite correct; the Spectacled Warbler in plate 230 has moulted the smallest tertial on both wings. It is common for many first-year *Sylvia* warblers to replace some tertials during the moult from juvenile to first-winter plumage. It is not the outline shape of the feather, but the shape and definition of the dark area in the centre of the feather (and the middle tertial) that is crucial. The pattern (even if it were the middle tertial, which it could be) would be unchanged whether juvenile or first-winter feather. The replaced feathers, being only one or two months fresher than the rest of the tertials and secondaries, quickly fade and closely match the remaining feathers. The orange wing-panel when viewed from the side would be relatively unaffected. Should an observer note the "odd" feather and remark on it in a field description he/she would clearly be giving the subject the scrutiny it deserved.' EDS

Binocular and telescope warranties and 'grey imports' Having had an unfortunate experience myself, I think that *British Birds* subscribers should be warned that some manufacturers' warranties are valid only if the optical instruments were sold by the companies' official, registered importers. The warranties for those instruments sold—occasionally below the standard prices and, therefore, appearing to be attractive bargains—by unofficial importers are often not honoured by the manufacturers (or their authorised distributors), who disapprove of these 'grey importations'. Anyone buying a binocular or telescope would be well advised to check that the warranty will be valid, and should weigh up the pros and cons if considering buying a cut-price instrument even if it is a well-known make.

I suggest that it is time for manufacturers to reassess their distribution and warranty arrangements to ensure that there is no such thing as a 'grey import' and that all purchases are covered in every country. Purchasers would thus gain further protection and manufacturers would be assured of an additional, valuable marketing aid. R. ALLISON

The Laurels, Manchester Road, Sway, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 6AS

Apparent tameness of rarities During visits to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Martin Mere, Lancashire, in February and October 1990, I was surprised to find that an American Wigeon *Anas americana* was the closest duck to the Millers Bridge hide and that a Teal *A. crecca* of the race *carolinensis* was one of ten ducks closest to the Cattybank hide.

Initially, my thoughts were that these two American ducks were tame, tolerant of man and his artefacts, and were clearly of escaped origin, so I was surprised to find that both records were accepted as referring to genuine vagrants (*Brit. Birds* 84: 460-461). I realise that escape from captivity can never be ruled out 100%, but if this is not likely to be the case (after much deliberation by the BBRC) then the peripheral position of vagrants when associating with similar indigenous species appears to be poorly documented.

P. I. MORRIS
Caughall Farmhouse Cottage, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, Cheshire CH2 4BW

The views both of ornithologists and of expert aviculturists are that tameness should never be taken as evidence of an escape origin, nor wildness as evidence of a natural origin (*Brit. Birds* 79: 210). There are, however, many observations which suggest that the odd-one-out which joins a flock is unlikely to occur in the centre, surrounded by strangers, but is likely to be at the periphery. Similarly, the odd-one-out is likely to act differently, flying first or taking off last, rather than acting as an integral member of the flock it has joined. Vagrants are, by definition, going to be the odd-ones-out in any flock they join. In the case of P. I. Morris's two vagrant ducks, he was lucky that they happened to be at the near, rather than the far, edge of the flock in each case. EDS

Conservation I was most surprised to read (*Brit. Birds* 85: 25) that John Major thinks that 'English Nature (and RSPB) have been able to save the White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* . . . in Scotland.' Surely the bulk of the work on this project was carried out by the Nature Conservancy Council and any further work would involve Scottish National Heritage in conjunction with the Joint Committee that exists now that the NCC has been broken up?

STAN DA PRATO
38 Carlaverock Grove, Tranent, East Lothian EE33 2EB

Dr da Prato is, of course, correct. In Scotland, the work by the NCC is being continued by the SNH, in consultation with the JNCC. EDS

Reviews

The Birds of Fair Isle. By J. N. Dymond. J. N. Dymond, Levenwick, 1991. 148 pages; 40 line-drawings; numerous histograms. Paperback £11.95.

Northern isles bewitch successive generations of visitors who love the sea, the sky, the isolation, the island characters, and the wildlife. None has greater magic than Fair Isle, and none can compare when it comes to birds.

Nick Dymond has produced a thorough, illuminating account of birds recorded since W. Eagle Clarke's time (from 1905), with special reference to the period since 1948 when George Waterston acquired the island and Ken Williamson became the first observatory (FIBO) Director (as the warden was then called).

The book includes all records up to 1990, with a sheet of subsequent rarity records inserted. Histograms show the patterns, in five-day slices, of 193 species in the FIBO period (excluding regular breeders, a mixed bag of scarce visitors and extreme vagrants). For 88 species, the data are split into three periods (1948-60, 1961-73 and 1974-87) to plot additional histograms which show changes in abundance or migration patterns. Breeding species are analysed in graphs. Only 25 species bred annually in the FIBO period, although usually there are over 30, and 53 species have bred at least once. The text is concise, readable, full of information and explanation, and highlights important trends. Interesting ringing data are scattered through the accounts.

Fair Isle is famous for its well-studied breeding seabirds, its sometimes abundant regular migrants (once 65,000 Redwings *Turdus iliacus* on one day) and its astonishing list of rarities. Few years pass without a new bird for the Fair Isle list, and 25 species have been added to the British list from Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* to Daurian Starling *Sturnus sturninus* via such variety as Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* and Song Sparrow *Zonotrichia melodia*. Some species are surprisingly rare. We all know that Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* (eight records) and Magpies *Pica pica* (one) are rare up there, but so are some 'expected' rarities such as Serin *Serinus serinus*, Radde's *Phylloscopus schwarzi* and Pallas's Warblers *P. proregulus*, and oddities such as Black *Chlidonias niger* and Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* (one record each), Garganey *Anas querquedula* and Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (only three reports).

The book has many excellent drawings by Dave Pullan and is well produced. Island-hoppers, seabird-fans, migrant-watchers and rarity-consumers will all love it. R. A. HUME

Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse: birds of dry places. By Paul A. Johnsgard. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1991. 276 pages; 51 colour plates; 53 line-drawings; 39 distribution maps. £60.00.

This addition to the author's well-known series of monographs of families departs from past practice by treating three which lack close phylogenetic relationships: the Otididae, the Turnicidae—including here the 'aberrant' monotypic 'Quail-Plover' (Lark Buttonquail) *Ortyxelos meiffrenii*—and the Pteroclididae. These families are primarily associated with arid or semi-arid habitats within the Old World and include many poorly-known species.

Whatever the merits of treating them between the same covers, the 51 species accounts are the only readily accessible overview for a majority of the birds covered. This part of the book is a proficient collation of information from standard works, amplified by detailed information drawn mainly from recent technical papers. The species accounts treat, under standard subheadings, description, measurements, identification, general and reproductive biology, ecology, social behaviour, evolutionary relationships, status and conservation. The identification sections properly adopt a museum-based style, but the lack of any serious attempt to address the behaviour and actions (i.e. jizz) of the birds in the field is disappointing. Identification in the field of Lark Buttonquail, for example, is covered merely by a single sentence, which fails to mention the astonishingly distinctive behaviour and flight-action of the bird in life. Species accounts vary considerably in length. Certain bustards which have been studied in detail are extensively treated (often drawing heavily on papers published in the journal *Bustard Studies*). In contrast, the lack of detailed information for many species has clearly been an unavoidable limitation.

Almost all species are illustrated by a very attractive series of plates by the late Major Henry Jones, dating from the early twentieth century. These are of a high standard. Ignoring a few inaccuracies associated with over-reliance on skins, they are useful for field identification. Through presentation of Jones's paintings, this book reveals a significant and apparently unacknowledged talent. His work compares favourably with that of several of the more celebrated artists of the time. As Jones's plates are a central feaure of this book (and similar previously published monographs), it seems odd and inappropriate that no information on the artist is included.

Despite lacking the hallmarks of field-acquaintance, this attractive and well-produced book is unquestionably worth having. Compared with the cost of the author's other recent monographs in an identical format, however, it seems rather highly priced. ROD MARTINS

Short reviews

Parametros Demograficos, Selección de Hábitat y Distribución de La Avutarda Otis tarda en Tres Regiones Españolas. Edited by Juan C. Alonso & Javier A. Alonso. (Colección Técnica, ICONA-FEPMA, Madrid, 1991. 123 pages. No price given) Describes government-sponsored census work on Great Bustards *Otis tarda* carried out in central Spain during 1987-89. The authors provide a wealth of detail on the population status and ecology of the 4,400 individuals involved, in tables, maps and figures (with English captions)—so that no-one armed with this book has any excuse for not seeing bustards in Spain. There is an English summary and extensive bibliography. This well-produced book would grace the collection of any Iberian bird enthusiast. [PAUL GORIUP]

Breeding Birds of Kashmir. By R. S. P. Bates & E. H. N. Lowther. (Oxford University Press, India, 1991. 367 pages, 5 colour plates, 151 monochrome photographs. £16.00) Reprint of 1952 original on poorer-quality paper. Not a field guide and applicable only to the Vale of Kashmir and surroundings, not the whole state. Centred around Bates's photographs (taken mostly at the nest), which include many of species rarely photographed, but are rather poorly reproduced. English names used are confusing, but typical of that period of Indian ornithology. Of high historical value, interesting reading, and will amply grace the shelves of those hooked on Indian birds.
[STEVE MADGE]

Seton Gordon: the life and times of a Highland gentleman. By Raymond Eagle. (Lochar Publishing, Moffat, 1991. 305 pages. £20.00) A comprehensive biography of this author, naturalist, photographer and authority on piping, who inspired so many people with his writings on the natural history and natural beauties of the Scottish Highlands. The biographer and publisher have done a fine job. The illustrations include some of Seton Gordon's classic photographs of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos*.
[MAO]

A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. By Harold R. Holt. (American Birding Association Inc., Colorado Springs, 1992. 189 pages. Paperback $14.95) This revised 'Lanes Guide' is invaluable for a visitor. It details birding sites, with some guidance on accommodation, the time to visit, etc. Some new areas are covered, notes on established sites are updated, and it has extra or improved maps. The new 'springback' format may not instantly appeal, but it works: the book lies flat at the page opened, a boon, particularly for those birding alone (the old book tended to flop shut at vital junctions). Despite having been there several times, I would not venture along the Texas Rio Grande Valley without this revised work. [DAVID HOLMAN]

Owls of the World. By Rob Hume. Illustrated by Trevor Boyer. (Dragon's World, London, 1991. 192 pages. £19.85) A large, beautifully produced book on this ever-popular group of birds. Trevor Boyer's paintings of all 148 species are both accurate and delightful, while Rob Hume's text is authoritative without ever being dull. A short introduction covers basic classification, biology and threats; the species accounts vary from two or three pages to a mere ten lines. Apart from two minor grumbles—the distribution maps would have been improved with some country boundaries, and I was disappointed to find merely a 'reading list' and not a full bibliography to back up the mass of information contained in the text—this is a lovely book and excellent value for money. [MAO]

Rutland Breeding Bird Atlas. By Terry Mitcham. (Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1992. 136 pages. Paperback £6.50) The 117 tetrads in the former county of Rutland were surveyed during 1988-90 by 32 members of the Rutland Natural History Society. The results are displayed in the traditional way, though there are only two symbols (a small dot indicating 'present' and a large dot indicating 'breeding') in line with the second BTO/IWC breeding bird atlas, rather than the standard, internationally agreed, European Ornithological Atlas Committee criteria with three grades ('possible breeding', 'probable breeding' and 'confirmed breeding'). The maps take up about one-sixth of a page; there is about half a page of text for each species, and the remaining space is often filled with a line-drawing (by Paul Leonard or Chris Park). The maps (the essential part of any atlas) are crisply produced, presenting the

results clearly. Every collector of breeding bird atlases will want to own a copy of this one, and so will every birdwatcher living in or likely to visit Rutland.

Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes. By Peter Oliver. (Peter Oliver, Oxted, 1991. 180 pages. £18.95) Despite changing land-use and even the inroads of industry, the North Kent Marshes offer some of the most exciting birdwatching anywhere in southern England, thanks largely to the extensive reserves of the RSPB, KTNC and English Nature. In this pleasing book, Peter Oliver charts the changing fortunes of the marshes since Gillham & Homes (1950, *The Birds of the North Kent Marshes*), and puts into perspective their current importance. The story is a surprisingly encouraging one, for many birds—ranging from Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* to Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta*—are now much more numerous than they once were. Dr Richard Chandler's photographs—all taken within this area—are pleasing, but more would have increased the book's visual appeal. The author is, however, to be congratulated on both writing and publishing a guide that all who know the marshes will want to have. All royalties go to the RSPB. [DAVID TOMLINSON]

Seasons with the Kestrel. By Gordon Riddle. (Blandford Cassell, London, 1991. 160 pages. £16.95) A personal account of the Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, as seen through the eyes of an ex-schoolteacher turned wildlife ranger who, in his spare time, has studied the bird for nearly 20 years in southwest Scotland. This book is as much about the techniques and tribulations of study as about the bird itself. Most of the 'hard' data are given in special 'information windows', scattered through a leisurely narrative which includes lengthy diary extracts and descriptions of the Scottish countryside and local characters. Less 'science-based' than the Poyser volume on the Kestrel by Andy Village, but a pleasant read. The photographs (by the author) give a good impression of the bird, the landscape and the fieldwork. [I. NEWTON]

In Search of Arctic Birds. By Richard Vaughan. Illustrated by Gunnar Brusewitz. (T & A D Poyser, London, 1992. 431 pages. £20.00) The title suggests and the preface states that 'This is a book about the pursuit of birds in the Arctic, not a monograph on the birds of the Arctic.' The text wanders over a whole range of subjects, at the whim of the author, so it is impossible to predict what is or is not included. In view of the Arctic's stunning birds and stunning scenery, the photographs are a great disappointment. Gunnar Brusewitz's drawings, however, are a delight; and who can resist reading about birds such as Spoonbill Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* and Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*?

ALSO RECEIVED

Tracks & Signs of the Birds of Britain and Europe: an identification guide. Second edn. By Roy Brown, John Ferguson, Michael Lawrence & David Lees. (Christopher Helm, London, 1992. 232 pages. Paperback £14.99)(First edn reviewed *Brit. Birds* 80: 443)

Bibliography of Chinese Ornithology. Edited by Yao-Kuang Tan, Chieko Katsura & Hiroyoshi Higuchi. (Wild Bird Society of Japan. Tokyo, 1990. 633 pages. Paperback Y5,500)

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Organic farming and birds Organic farming methods result in a return to something akin to traditional systems of mixed farming and crop rotations, in order to maintain productivity. Rotations might include cereals, root crops and nitrogen-fixing grass-clover leys. Fertility is maintained with the help of applications of animal and plant manures, crop residues and mineral-bearing rocks, and weed control is achieved by mechanical rather than by chemical means. Organic systems replace the more specialised regimes of many modern farms, which employ high inputs of inorganic fertilisers and pesticides and may reduce greatly the availability of insect and weed-seed food resources for birds. Intuitively, we might expect the greater habitat variety and food availability created on organic farms to support greater numbers of a greater variety of birds. Circumstantial evidence supports this. Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* prefer to nest in root crops and feed on grassland and hence benefit from mixed farming, and Grey Partridges *Perdix perdix* raise more chicks if pesticide spraying of field margins is reduced.

The BTO aims to discover the real benefits of organic farming to birds in a new project in which you can take part, funded jointly by MAFF and the World Wide Fund for Nature. It presents us with a unique opportunity to investigate the effects of modern agricultural practice on our breeding and wintering bird populations. During 1992-94, we need volunteers to survey bird populations of specific organic farms and their traditional neighbours. If you would like to help or know more, please contact Dr Jeremy Wilson at BTO HQ.

PAUL GREEN
British Trust for Ornithology, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU



ICBP news

EC countries slow with protection EC countries are not fulfilling their legal obligation to protect the most important habitats for birds. This is the finding of an ICBP report on the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

SPAs were introduced to the EC with the adoption of the Wild Birds Directive in 1979. The Wild Birds Directive requires that EC Member States designate as SPAs the most important areas for priority bird species, which are listed on Annex 1 of the document. The deterioration of any SPA must be avoided.

Since the Directive came into force in 1981, only 504 of the 1,681 sites that qualify (as identified by the ICBP in the book *Important Bird Areas*) have been partially or wholly designated as SPAs. These sites amount to just 30% of the total area that should be protected by the SPA scheme. Extrapolation shows that, if the current rate of designation continues, it will take until the year 2053 for all the sites to receive protection under EC law.

The United Kingdom is one of the worst offenders with, by 1991, just 39 of the 238 qualifying sites having received SPA status. On current rates of designation, the UK would be the second slowest country to complete the task, with only the Netherlands taking longer.

The priority that should be given to protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat has been recognised by the EC. It is now up to member governments to fulfil their commitments.

GEORGINA GREEN
International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Diary dates

This list covers July 1992 to June 1993

14th July BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB. Dr Storrs L. Olson on 'Prehistoric birdlife of the Hawaiian Islands.' Central London. Non-members should write (enclosing SAE) at least 21 days before to Hon. Secretary, Mrs Amberley Moore, 1 Uppingham Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JB.

28th July BOC. Dr Angela Turner on 'The hirundines: a most entertaining tribe of birds.' Central London. Details from Hon. Secretary.

30th July to 14th August SOCIETY OF WILDLIFE ARTISTS' ANNUAL EXHIBITION (including display of winning entries in 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and 'The Richard Richardson Award' competitions). The Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1. Open 10a.m.-5p.m. Admission £2.00 (free to SWLA members).

30th August ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB MEETING. Blakeney Village Hall, Blakeney, Norfolk. De-

tails from OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

4th-6th September BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR. Egleton Nature Reserve, Rutland Water, near Oakham, Leicestershire. Enquiries to Tim Appleton, Fishponds Cottage, Stamford Road, Oakham, Leicestershire LE15 8AB.

4th-6th September WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary. Details from WSG Conference Secretariat (Attn Tamas Szekely), Department of Zoology, Kossuth University, Debrecen, Hungary.

7th-11th September IX INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL ECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM. Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary. Details from IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX.

13th-17th September IV INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS CONFERENCE. Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA. Details from William J. Mitsch, School of Natural Resources, Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA.

14th-18th September INTERNATIONAL BIRD CENSUS COMMITTEE/EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ATLAS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE. Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Details from Conference Secretariat: Van Namen & Westerlaken, Congress Organization Services, PO Box 1558, 6501 BN Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

15th September BOC. Dr W. Thiede and Dr U. Thiede on 'Japan—Britain of the East?.' Central London. Details from Hon. Secretary.

15th-20th September PAN-MEDITERRANEAN SYMPOSIUM. Chios, Greece. Management of island and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean. Details from Xavier Monbailliu, MEDMARAVIS, BP2, 83470 Saint Maximin, France.

17th-20th September BOU AUTUMN MEETING. University of Liverpool. 'The history of ornithology.' Details from Miss Clem Fisher, Curator of Birds and Mammals, Vertebrate Zoology Department, Liverpool County Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.

3rd October BTO/BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BIRD CLUB JOINT ONE-DAY CONFERENCE. Further details from John Wyatt, Little Okeford, Christchurch Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 4EF.

3rd-4th October NORTHUMBERLAND BIRD FAIR. Druridge Bay Country Park, Northumberland.

10th October RSPB AGM. Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. Details from RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

17th October RSPB FILM PREMIÈRE. Royal Festival Hall, London. 5 p.m. Tickets from Box Office, Royal Festival Hall.

15th October OBC MEETING. Isles of Scilly. Details from OBC.

30th October to 1st November SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Badenoch Hotel, Aviemore. Details from SOC, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EE7 5BT.

10th November BOC. Dr A. G. Gosler on 'Bill adaptations in the Great Tit—or a mandible for all seasons.' Central London. Details from Hon. Secretary.

20th-22nd November SCOTTISH RINGERS' CONFERENCE. Fife Arms Hotel, Braemar. Details from Robert Rae, 11 Millend, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeen AB4 OGD.

4th-6th December BTO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM. 'Farming and Birds.' Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Details from BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.

4th-6th December NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CAGE AND AVIARY BIRDS. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Details from Brian Byles, Editor, 'Cage and Aviary Birds', King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

12th December OBC AGM. Zoological Society meeting rooms, Regent's Park, London. Details from OBC.

8th-10th January BTO RINGING AND MIGRATION CONFERENCE. Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Details from Ringing Office, BTO.

29th-31st January YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB GARDEN BIRDWATCH. Details from YOC, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

31st January Closing date for entries for 'Bird Photograph of the Year'.

31st January Closing date for entries for 'Best recent black-and-white bird photographs'.

5th-7th March RSPB/IRISH WILDBIRD CONSERVANCY ALL-IRELAND CONFERENCE. The Everglades Hotel, Londonderry. Details from RSPB, Northern Ireland Office, Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast BT8 4QT, Northern Ireland.

15th March Closing date for entries for 'Bird Illustrator of the Year'.

15th March to 16th May YOC FLIGHTLINE. Migration phone-in. Details from YOC.

26th-28th March BOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE. 'Reproductive competition—sperm competition and intraspecific brood parasitism.' Losehill Hall Field Centre, Derbyshire. Details from Dr C. S. Lessells, Zoology Department, The University, Sheffield S10 2TN.

2nd-4th April RSPB MEMBERS' WEEKEND. Lancaster University. Details from Events Department, RSPB.

April SALE OF VINTAGE PRINTS BY ERIC HOSKING. Proceeds to the Eric Hosking Trust. Lavenham Wildlife Art Gallery, 70-71 High Street, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9PT.

May 'IN FOCUS' BIRDRACE. County birdwatch. In association with International Council for Bird Preservation and county Nature Conservation Trusts. Prize-giving presentation at British Birdwatching Fair, Rutland Water. Details and entry forms from David Tomlinson, Windrush, Coles Lane, Brasted, Westerham, Kent TN16 1NN.

Mrs S. D. Cobban, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Announcements

Forthcoming 'BB'-SUNBIRD birdwatching trips

23rd August to 5th September 1992	Volga Delta and Tien Shan Mountains (see *Brit. Birds* 84: 243) led by Al Knystautas & Paul Holt
9th-23rd September 1992	Israel, including Red Sea pelagic trip (see *Brit Birds* 85: 127-129, 194) led by Hadoram Shirihai & Killian Mullarney
27th November to 14th December 1992	Yemen (see *Brit. Birds* 84: 589) led by Rod Martins & Jon Dunn
February-March 1993	Thailand
April 1993	Special trip being arranged – details will be published shortly
May-June 1993	Camargue and Pyrénées
September 1993	Israel, including Red Sea pelagic trip

Further details are obtainable from David Fisher/Jennifer Thomas, Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Guest & Hutcheson *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire*
*Marzluff & Balda *The Pinyon Jay*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xiii & xiv.

Requests

'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB' Please order all your bird books by using the British BirdShop order forms which are included in *BB* each month (pages xiii & xiv this month). All the profits received by *BB* go directly towards funding extra pages, extra photographs and the use of colour illustrations within *BB* itself. By using the POST FREE service provided by British BirdShop, you not only receive the quickest and most efficient mail-order bird-book service, but also help to improve the contents of *BB*, and hold down the subscription price, to everyone's benefit. Thank you for supporting us.

Volunteers for ringing of waders in Bahrain A pilot ringing scheme of waders in Bahrain took place during three weeks in September and October 1991. In 1992, the study will be repeated during 1st August to 15th October. For this we require experienced licensed ringers (preferably with experience of wader-ringing) willing to travel at their own expense and able to stay at least three weeks in Bahrain. Persons prepared to stay for longer periods will have an advantage. No pay can currently be offered, but accommodation, visa and local transport is free. Those interested should write at once for more details, to Dr Saeed Mohammad and Erik Hirschfeld, Biology Department, College of Sciences, Bahrain University, PO Box 32038, State of Bahrain.

Vagrants in Seychelles A Records Committee has been established to collate data on birds in the Republic of Seychelles, which also includes the coral limestone atolls of the Amirantes, Providence, Farquhar and Aldabra groups. It will assess and publish records of vagrants, as well as monitoring the populations of breeding species and migrants, with the ultimate aim of producing a full check-list. The members are Ian Bullock, Dr Chris Feare, James Ferguson-Lees (chairman), David Fisher, Ron Gerlach, John Phillips, and Adrian Skerrett (secretary), all of whom have spent much time in the islands. Past and present observations are needed of any species that have been reported less than annually. Lists are available from (and all observations should be sent to) Adrian Skerrett, PO Box 336, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles.

Do you like 'BB' as it is? You can influence the future contents of *BB* by filling in the questionnaire on page viii (opposite page 263) in this issue and sending it to us. We want *British Birds* to provide you, its subscribers, with what you want. New ideas are also welcome.
Please send us your completed form.

News and comment

Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Barn Owl on Schedule 9 In late February, the Government made the welcome announcement that the Barn Owl *Tyto alba* is to be added to Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. In short, this means that it will be illegal to release Barn Owls into the wild except under licence; it also means that, over the next few years, the new system will enable a code of good practice to be drawn up which, for the first time, will result in proper regulation and evaluation of owl releases. The Hawk and Owl Trust has estimated that there are 20,000-30,000 Barn Owls in captivity and that over 3,000 are currently released every year by over 600 amateur operators; a few of these release schemes are well controlled, and seem to be making a useful contribution, but the majority are not, and it is highly improbable that they are doing anything constructive for Barn Owl conservation, despite the undoubted good intentions of the operators. The Barn Owl's problems are habitat-related and simply releasing large numbers of captive-bred individuals into an environment where their wild predecessors have failed is largely a matter of putting the cart before the horse. The media have not helped because, with such a photogenic bird, captive owls sitting on people's heads and hands make good news stories, which obscure the true nature of the problem. A recent *New Scientist* article (8th February 1992) by John Cayford (RSPB) and Steve Percival (BTO) showed that survival rates of released first-year owls (10%) and adults (15%) compared very unfavourably with those of their wild counterparts (19% and 55% respectively), further demonstrating the flaws in the captive-breeding-and-release system as it has operated until now.

Hootline As part of their own conservation programme, the Buckinghamshire Barn Owl Group (part of the Hawk and Owl Trust's Barn Owl Conservation Network) is urgently seeking information on Barn Owl sightings in the county. All information received will be treated in confidence. Contact the 'Hootline' number 0296-415474, or write to Mark Chester, 10 Twitchell Lane, Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 5JJ.

Sea Fisheries Bill There was jubilation at the RSPB in March when the Private Members' Bill it had drafted, and which was promoted by Phillip Oppenheim MP, received Royal Assent and became the Sea Fisheries (Wildlife Conservation) Act, 1992. For a long time, one of the biggest problems facing conservation in UK coastal waters has been the lack of any formal powers to control the impact of fisheries on wildlife. The Act requires fisheries ministers to protect wildlife, impos-

ing on them duties like those which already exist for agriculture ministers. We congratulate all concerned, and hope that this means the start of a new era in which fisheries and wildlife interests are better balanced than they have been in the past.

1992 Fair The British Birdwatching Fair 1992 will be held at Rutland Water during 4th-6th September. This popular and now-annual event will once again be organised by the RSPB and the Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation, with sponsorship from optical retailers *in focus* and two newcomers, The Bird and Wildlife Bookshop and Anglian Water. Last year, the Fair raised over £20,000 for the ICBP Danube Delta project in Romania (see *Brit. Birds* 85: 139); this year, funds will be raised for the ICBP Spanish Steppe Grasslands Appeal (*Brit. Birds* 85: 139, 193-194). Entrance is £5, or £7 for two or three days, with group booking rates of £4 per ticket for parties of ten or more. More details from the British Birdwatching Fair Office, Fishponds Cottage, Stamford Road, Oakham, Leicestershire LE15 8AA; phone 0572-724101.

New SPAs In March 1992, the Exe Estuary (Devon), Old Hall Marshes (Essex) and Lindisfarne (Northumberland) were all designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Along with Chippenham Fen (Cambridgeshire), they were also declared wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. These are very welcome moves, but it is a sorry fact that only 46 out of a possible 238 sites had been declared SPAs by March, ten years after the EC Directive came into force.

Whitefront record Dave Paynter, Assistant Curator at the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's Slimbridge centre, tells us that the February 1992 Wildfowl Count on the Dumbles produced the best winter total of White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* since 1973 and the best February total since 1971. There were 4,600 individuals, with an above-average proportion of juveniles at 37%.

KOS Conference We enjoyed our participation in the one-day conference of the Kent Ornithological Society at Canterbury in March, when the theme was Bird Conservation in Europe. Particular praise (and some sympathy!) goes to Chris Cox, who bravely stepped into the breach and delivered Jim Flegg's paper on seabirds, Jim being an absentee following a family bereavement. The *BB* Mystery Photographs Competition entries included only two wholly correct sets of answers, from Paul Hale and Brian Short: Paul won the draw for the customary bottle of champagne.

The new magazine 'Here it is—the magazine that every keen birdwatcher has been waiting for.' That's how the editorial of the new *Birdwatch* magazine proclaims its arrival. Forgetting the hyperbole, what's in it, you'll be wondering? It has a mix of articles on conservation (both home and overseas), identification, bird observatories, bird photography and sound recording. Regular features include news, a gallery (rare birds in 1991) and 'My local patch', as well as book and equipment reviews. It contains no news of latest rarities, which would be difficult, anyway, for a bi-monthly publication. Just over a third of the pages have colour photographs and there is a sprinkle of black-and-white photographs elsewhere. Since only nine of its 50 pages are devoted to the regular features, it's difficult to say just how the magazine will look after a few more issues. At least it's different and doesn't appear to want to compete with us or other birdwatching magazines. It may well appeal to birdwatchers who claim no special knowledge, are not twitchers, but are keen enough to support the RSPB, or a local club or society.

Little Barrier Island The haunt of some of New Zealand's rarest birds—the Stitchbird *Notiomystis cincta*, the Kokako *Callaeas cinerea* and the Saddleback *Creadion carunculatus*, as well as the nocturnal flightless parrot, the Kakapo *Strigops habroptilus*—must be one of the most lonely places for any warden. Even lonelier, perhaps, for the warden's wife. Robin Smuts-Kennedy, her husband, Chris, and their son are the only human residents on Little Barrier. Robin would greatly welcome a female pen-pal from among *British Birds* readers.

The address to write to is Mrs Robin Smuts-Kennedy, Little Barrier Island, Private Bag 92041, Auckland, New Zealand. (*Contributed by Digby Munns*)

Cetacean Alert This is the name of a new venture which deserves the support of all birders who put in any time seawatching or afloat. In association with the charity Care of the Wild, Cetacean Alert provides both an up-to-date information service on whales, dolphins and porpoises around our coasts (telephone the charge-line 0891-664670) and a hotline for your own sightings (0532-485357). More information from Nathan Gricks, 6 Bayswater Mount, Leeds LS8 5LP.

Deadlines Once again, we have been unable to mention several interesting events owing to lack of notice. Our normal copy date is about two-and-a-half months before publication, so to be safe you need to try to let us have event information at least three months in advance.

'The new avian classification' The methods and results of DNA-DNA hybridisation (Sibley & Ahlquist 1990; Sibley & Monroe 1990), explained in layman's terms to us in January (*Brit. Birds* 85: 53–61), have not, of course, been endorsed universally. The 'discussion' is likely to continue in the scientific community for some time. Those with an interest should not miss the salvo fired by Scott M. Lanyon in his long review of Sibley & Ahlquist (1990) in the journal of the Cooper Ornithological Society (*Condor* 94: 304–307), which has been drawn to our attention by Louis R. Bevier.



MJE

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by

SUNBIRD

The bird in plate 38 was named as only five species:

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*	(92%)
Levaillant's Green Woodpecker *P. vaillantii*	(4%)
Grey-headed Woodpecker *P. canus*	(2%)
Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*	(2%)
Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*	(<1%)

It was a juvenile Green Woodpecker, photographed in France in July 1987 by Erwan Le Cornec. Of the leading contestants named last month, none fell at this hurdle. The prize of a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday to Africa, Asia or North America awaits the winner.

As soon as the prize is won, a new 'Monthly marathon' will start. Don't miss the first one in the new sequence, which *could* be this month's picture (plate 132).

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



132. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-third stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 72). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31–32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th July 1992

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 10th April to 14th May 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Radley Gravelpits (Oxfordshire), 26th April to at least 13th May.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* Sherkin Island (Co. Cork), 20th-21st April.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Up to 17, mainly in eastern England, with eight at Maple Cross (Hertfordshire), 3rd-4th April, and five in Welney (Norfolk) area, 9th to at least 14th.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* Minsmere (Suffolk), 29th April.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* St Mary's (Scilly), 20th April; Sherkin Island, 20th-21st April, and Skibbereen (Co. Cork), 24th April.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* Influx in May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* Fair Isle (Shetland), 13th-14th May.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* Point of Ayr (Clwyd), 8th-9th May.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* During late April and early May: Lough Beg (Co. Londonderry), Cotswold Water Park (Wiltshire), Kinsale Marsh (Co. Cork), and Marton Mere, Blackpool (Lancashire).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* Loch Rannoch (Tayside), 6th to at least 14th May.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* Up to 12, widely scattered, with up to six in Kent, from 23rd April.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Sandwich Bay (Kent), 12th May; Holland Haven (Essex), and three at Flamborough Head (Humberside), 14th May.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* St Mary's 21st-24th April; Unst (Shetland), 1st May; Blakeney Point (Norfolk), 4th May.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens* Portland Bill (Dorset), 2nd May (potential first for Britain).

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* Arklow (Co. Wicklow), 20th April; Portland Bill, 29th April; then six, scattered, in first half of May.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Old Head of Kinsale (Co. Cork), 21st April; St Mary's, 20th-21st April and 6th May.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* Chearsley (Buckinghamshire) and Keyhaven (Hampshire), both 25th April; Bardsey Island (Gwynedd), 6th May.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* From 20th April: Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork), Foreland (Isle of Wight), Prawle Point (Devon), Morcton (Merseyside), Newbiggin (Northumberland), and Skomer Island (Dyfed).

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* Weybourne (Norfolk), 14th May.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* Wolves Wood RSPB Reserve (Suffolk), 4th May.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111
(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP) £22.50 ☐
Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins) £14.99 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm) £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* 4th edn (Ibis) £19.00 ☐
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐
*del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx) (due september)
PREPUBLICATION OFFER (normal price £95.00) £73.00 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond) Paperback £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐
ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm) Paperback £25.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser) £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm) (DUE JUNE) £27.99 ☐
*Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £68.00 ☐ vol. 2 £68.00 ☐ vol. 3 £68.00 ☐
vol. 4 (DUE SEPTEMBER) PREPUBLICATION PRICE (FULL PRICE £85.00) £72.00 ☐
Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser) £17.50 ☐
*Guest & Hutcheson *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire* (Helm) Paperback £10.99 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00) £10.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press) Hardback £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP) £19.95 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £22.50 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £35.00 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm) Paperback £12.99 ☐
Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐
Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU/OUP) £125.00 ☐
*Marzluff & Balda *The Pinyon Jay* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xiv to complete your order.

British BirdShop (continued)

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm) Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (BRITISH BIRDS) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver) £18.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight Identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £16.50 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (HarperCollins) Paperback £14.99 ☐ Hardback £30.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France) £46.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) £6.95 ☐
Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING JUNE 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.
Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro ac no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**

DON'T MISS OUR SUMMER '92 OPTICAL SHOW

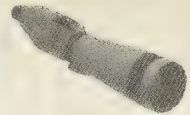
AT SOUTHAMPTON'S FABULOUS OCEAN VILLAGE MARINA COMPLEX

10AM TO 6PM SUNDAY 21 JUNE — ADMISSION FREE!

SCOPES

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle)	£219
TSN-602 Body (straight)	£199
20 x WA	£64
27 x (New) WA	£94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle)	£316
TSN 2 Body (straight)	£316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle)	£636
TSN 4 Body (straight)	£636
20 x WA	£109
25 x	£69
30 x WA	£139
40 x	£69
60 x	£119
77 x	£109
20-60x Zoom	£169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof)	£39.95
Standard Case	£24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm)	£129



Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x £379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x £554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x £629.95
Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31
HR Photoadaptor Variable	£33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON
PACKAGE DEALS • PHONE FOR UK'S
LOWEST PRICES

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£119.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£185.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50		£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	£199
8 x 20 BCA	£239
10 x 25 BC	£239
10 x 25 BCA	£255
7 x 42 BA	£649
8 x 42 BA	£649
10 x 42 BA	£649

All normally available in black or green finish.

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£249
10 x 25 B	£269
8 x 20 BGA	£315
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£529
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£699
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£689
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style)	£319

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact	£215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism	£365

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY	£269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA	£199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£649

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
10 x 25 CF III Compact	£112
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199
8 x 40 Sporting II	£119.95
10 x 50 Sporting II	£139.95

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7 x 50 STD	£104

OCEAN VILLAGE SUMMER SHOW!

EVERYTHING OPTICAL UNDER THE SUN – AND A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!

★ Perfect viewing conditions at the South's premier waterfront leisure/retail complex.
★ Most binocular & scope models from the top manufacturers will be set up ready for you to try – with space & time to spare!
★ ALL WITH A CHANCE TO BUY AT VERY SPECIAL SHOW PRICES!
★ Expert advice & guidance from birding enthusiasts & manufacturer representatives.
★ 14 day home trial.
★ A vast range of photographic & video products also at Show.
★ Easy to get to – contact us for more details & directions.

DON'T MISS IT.
SEE YOU THERE!

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH
(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen) 0703 221597/335363
Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

5% RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- ☆ Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- ☆ 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- ☆ Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- ☆ Major credit cards accepted.

VISA (D137)

New Books From
T & AD POYSER



THE PIED FLYCATCHER

Arne Lundberg and Rauno Alatalo

The Pied Flycatcher is one of Europe's best studied species. A Palearctic migrant, it is notable for its very variable male plumage and complex territorial and polygymous breeding system. They take readily to nest boxes and have provided excellent opportunities for the study of a wide range of biological problems. This broad review of the species provides not only a detailed biology of this fascinating bird, but also a commentary on many of the most interesting problems in bird behaviour. The Pied Flycatcher is one of the classic species, the subject of research over many decades in many parts of northern Europe. Recent work by the authors has built on this background and looks particularly at the influence of plumage variations on mating success, the details of singing behaviour, territoriality and breeding systems.

February 1992, £19.00, 280pages
ISBN: 0.85661.072.0.

Available from all good booksellers or from:

T & A D POYSER
24-28 Oval Road
London NW1 7DX
Telephone: 071-267-4466

(D142)

FOCALPOINT VISA

The binocular and telescope specialists
Run by birders for birders

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS
(10.30am–4pm)

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
Martin Mere, Lancs (M6, Jct 27). Sunday 21st June.

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
Washington, Tyne & Wear (District 15). Sunday 28th June.

FINE ART DEPT. — Ask for full price list

SKUA stay-on-the-scope cases Fittings for KOWA, OPTOLYTH, NIKON & PICCOLO	MAIL ORDER OR CALLERS WELCOME	SUPERB VIEWS OPEN SATURDAY 9.30-4.00	OPEN MON-FRI 9.30–5.30 CLOSED SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

LEICA – New 'olive-drab' Safari models – all sizes from stock NOW.

BOOK SHELF
Good selection of titles from Poyser, Macmillan, Collins, etc. e.g. Rare Birds, Warblers, Herons of Europe



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 (D135)

island holidays

CUBA

Departs 9 February 1993 – 15 days
Cost £1,825 + travel insurance

A serious birding holiday with records of endemic and/or threatened species being submitted to the ornithological section of the Academy of Sciences in Havana.

Timed to coincide with the peak migration period, this tour concentrates on the Pinar del Rio Province and Playa Laga, taking in a wide variety of habitats.

For full information and a detailed itinerary contact

Island Holidays, Ardross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6.2JU.
Tel: 0764 70107.

(D136)



THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

invites readers of ***British Birds*** *into our membership. If you join the only North American association of and for birders, you will receive* ***Birding****, our bi-monthly magazine which gives active field birders the expertise they seek, and* ***Winging It****, a lively monthly newsletter with the latest happenings and rarities. Many ABA birdwatchers are available to advise or guide visitors to their local areas. These members are listed in our Membership Directory.*

Annual Dues: US$ 37.00 or £20.00. Sterling checks acceptable.

For sample copies, send US$3.50 or £2.00 to:

American Birding Association
PO Box 6599 Colorado Springs, CO 80934 USA (D963)

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be **PREPAID**
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(including 17½% VAT)
£2.94 a line—average of 6 words
£9.98 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions for the price of 2
6 insertions for the price of 4

Copy Date
July Issue
June 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm and **HarperCollins** — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND



FOCUS ON THIS!

'A BIRDER & NATURE LOVER'S GUIDE TO NORTH WEST NORFOLK'

WHICH PROVIDES FULL DETAILS OF ALL THE NATURE RESERVES.

PLUS RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

CLOSE TO TITCHWELL MARSH, SNETTISHAM AND HOLME.

SEND FOR YOUR COPY NOW

ONLY £1.80 PLUS 70p P&P.

CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS
17 CASTLE COTTAGES
THORNHAM
NORFOLK PE36 6NF
TEL. 048 526 451 (D140)

EXMOOR. Peaceful s/catering c/heated holiday homes in National Trust Village. Marshes, woods and moorland—rich in birdlife. Reduced spring/autumn terms. Open all year. Resident Proprietors, Pack Horse, Allerford, nr Minehead. Tel: 0643 862475. (BB026)

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Cley 5 miles; Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390



(BB963)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB793)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB097)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB160)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB169)

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB171)

SCOTLAND

ISLE OF MULL. A stable converted into two warm, comfortable flats. Frachadil Farm, Calgary. Tel: 068 84 265 or (0453) 833323. (BB037)

SPEY VALLEY. Maureen and Larry once again invite guests to sample their highland hospitality. Set in five acres, our home has uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. Bird register available. Good home cooking and a warm welcome await you. D/B/B £130 p.w. (All rooms en-suite). Brochure: Maureen Taulbut, "Braes of Duthil', Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3ND. 047984 395. (BB138)

ELLARY ESTATE—MOST ATTRACTIVE choice of self-catering cottages and chalets situated on the shores of Loch Caolisport. While you are at Ellary you are free to go wherever you please. There are hill walks, many lochs and burns where you can fish, numerous wildlife, birds, flowers, etc. The perfect location for the true country lover. For full colour brochure please write to: The Booking Office, Ellary 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PA. Tel: 08803 232/209 or 054685 223. (BB983)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503. (BB184)

ISLE OF ISLAY, HEBRIDES. Five superbly equipped cottages, open throughout year. Perfect situation with views, minutes to charming village. Short drive to RSPB reserve at Gruinart. Brochure: Mrs Sarah Roy, Lorgba Holiday Cottage, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll. Tel: 049 685/208. (BB999)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

ISLE OF GIGHA, Argyllshire. For a holiday surrounded by natural beauty, sandy beaches, exotic gardens, birds, wild flowers, good food and comfortable accommodation. Also self catering accommodation. Please contact Mrs. McSporran, Post Office House 058-35 251. (BB036)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB163)

NORTH BERWICK. Family run hotel with warm, friendly atmosphere, comfortable rooms and home cooking. Open all year round. Overlooking Craigleith Rock and within easy reach of Bass Rock, Fidra and Aberlady nature reserve. Small groups welcome (max 15). Belhaven Hotel, Westgate, North Berwick. Tel: (0620) 3009 for brochure. (BB168)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB183)

BOAT OF GARTEN, OLD FERRYMAN'S HOUSE. BB £13, DBB £21, PL £3, Bird register. Open fire in sitting room. Few minutes walk to RSPB reserve. Tel: 047983 370. (BB182)

IRELAND

IRISH COTTAGE Magnificent situation on Dingle peninsula, Kerry. Sea and mountain birds, unspoilt beaches, countryside full of flowers, quietness. Mod cons, sleeps 4. £99-£162 weekly plus electricity. Gerrards Cross (0753) 883082. (BB044)

WALES

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB135)

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

PRESILI, WEST WALES. Cottage available most dates April-September. 2-4 persons. Suit bird watchers, walkers. All amenities close (0222) 615176. (BB120)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest-House standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB190)

OVERSEAS

S. E. SPAIN – comfortable house, convenient major wetlands/beach. All mod cons. Sleeps 3/4. Bird list and details. Tel: 0233 628547. (BB134)

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB146)

CAMARGUE—TOWN HOUSE. Sleeps 10. £150-£250 pw (0624) 676151 Fx 662787. (BB122)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May – variety of accommodation – trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB137)

BIRDS OF SPEYSIDE: A week of crossbills, crested tits, ospreys and lots more; small group with very experienced leader. Also departures to ISLAY, OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND. Write to: Natureguide (Caledonia), Shiresmill, Dunfermline KY12 8ER. (BB050)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

WILDWINGS
The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers
DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide
Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£139
CARIBBEAN	£345
C. & S. AMERICA	£399
AFRICA	£129
N. AMERICA	£180
ASIA	£280
AUS/NZ	£549

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS
ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2750 pp. Brochure & Video available.
Ask for leaflet detailing our services.
0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757 MON. - FRI.
ABTA 65077
(BB121)

COSTA RICA
More birds than the whole of North America!
Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:
BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1008 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573
(BB108)

ERYRI BIRDS
Come birdwatching with us in 1992
S. SPAIN SEPTEMBER
N. GREECE SEPTEMBER
Informal small group holidays with experienced guides
Send for a brochure to:
Colin Thomas,
24 Tan-y-Bwlch Rd, Llanllechid,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
Tel: (0248) 600167
(BB186)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237
100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS
'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)
ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB133)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING ADVICE LINE

Thomas Cook Travel
'PLANNING A BIRDWATCHING TRIP ABROAD' OFFER YOU A TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS LINE:
02572 62317
Ask for Keith Hiller experienced Birdwatcher.
Details available include: * Worldwide Airfares * Car Hire * Package Holidays * Ferries * Overseas Rail
(BB117)

BIRD INFORMATION

The Paging Service for Birders
RARE BIRD ALERT
Tel. 0800 246 246
New cost saving options now available
(BB163)

BIRD REPORT

OUTER HEBRIDES BIRD REPORT FOR 1991. Comprehensive Report plus rarities reports, Dave Davenport with a full description of Skua Passage off Balranald, Birdwatching on St Kilda, Gazeteer etc. Price £4.50 inc p&p from Tim Dix, 2 Drimsdale, S. Uist PA81 5RT. Cheques made out to OHBR. (BB187)

BIRDLINE SOUTH EAST 1991 REPORT

now available, containing;
● Systematic list ● Full colour photographs
● Illustrated article by Chris Heard on the identification of Rock and Water Pipits
● Guide to birdwatching access at London Reservoirs.
For your copy send £5 to: Birdline South East, PO Box 481, London SE20 8LZ
(BB149)

PERSONAL

RUSSIAN SPEAKING ENGLISH BIRDER seeks birding companion for bird trips in Russia, Siberia, Caucasus. Winter '92-Summer '93. Contact: K. Turner, 240 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1UU. (BB038)

COURSES

SKOKHOLM ISLAND, off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art, Birdwatching, Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Send SAE to Dept BB, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF. Tel: (0437) 765462. (BB032)

SITUATIONS VACANT

SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY
Assistant Wardens
Applications are invited for positions on Employment Action Scheme if unemployed for more than 6 months. Must be competent birders or bird ringers.
Write to The Warden, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, Old Downs Farm, Sandwich Bay, Kent CT13 9PF or phone 0304 617341.
(BB185)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

EASINGTON, NORTH HUMBERSIDE COAST. Adj. Spurn Head. Job change forces sale. 18th century cottage, 3 beds, 2 wood panelled receptions, kitchen, bathroom, garage, garden etc. £65,000 o.n.o. Tel: 0904 612825 anytime. (BB191)

BOOKS

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers
where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407
(BB165)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:
Coxton Publications,
Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington,
Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP
(BB159)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria. CA10 3JP (Tel. 09315-282). (BB066)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB151)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request
Tel: 0352 770581
Fax: 0352 771590

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS
SUBBUTEO
NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd,North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE envelope to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel. 0433 630137. (BB109)

FOR SALE

TRIPOD TAMER 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. post from: Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB123)

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB144)

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes.
Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6.
Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB145)

BAILEY, Birds of New Mexico (1928), leather-bound signed edition limited to 350 copies. Cover cracks and wear, contents VG. £200 plus shipping. John Wall, 19, Tisdale Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583, U.S.A. (BB124)

BB VOLS. 42 (1949), 49 (1956), 50 (1957) bound £13 each. Vols. 62-73 (1969-1980) £150, £180 the lot. IBIS Vols. 99-122 £180 ono. Bird Study 1-27 £100 ono. Chris 0253 700149. (BB125)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845

(BB164)

CAVE & McDONALD. Birds of the Sudan, £85. L. Batten, Birdwatchers Year, £33. Telephone 0760 725486. (BB156)

BIRDING WORLD Vol. 2. Nos 6,9,11,12. Vol. 3 No. 1, £2 each. BB Nov. 79, Nov. 80, Dec. 81, Jul. 82, Sep. 82, Jun. 87, Aug. 87, Oct. 88, Sep. 89, Sep. 90, Oct 90. £1.50 each. Tel: 0395 273426 evenings only. (BB157)

COLLECTION OF BIRD BOOKS/MAGS ETC. Incl. Poyser, Bannerman/Witherby/New Nats etc. Rare items plus many current books at reduced prices. Will sell singly. Send stamp for list to R. Smith, 30 Church Fenton Lane, Ulleskelf, Tadcaster, N. Yorks LS24 9DW. Tel: 0937 834428. (BB172)

SLIDES. Professional 35mm bird slides no longer required for lectures. Reduced prices to clear limited stock. SAE for full details and species lists. C. Herbert, 67a Ridgeway Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. (BB173)

WALKERS Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * TASCO**

OUR PRICES ARE TOO LOW TO PRINT

Bushnell SPACEMASTER II
70mm Body + 15x –45x Zoom **£199**
LEITZ, ZEISS & KOWA.
At OLD prices, while stocks last
Russian 7 x 35, **£27** 10 x 50, **£30** 20 x 60, **£59**

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST (D116)
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

GOLDEN OLDIES
by
AVIAN PHOTOS

Dave Cottridge, Tim Loseby, David Tipling

Avian have gone back through the archives to produce a collection of the very best photos of rare birds dating back to 1980. All are 6 x 4 colour prints priced at £1.50 each, add 30p p&p.

Send SAE for Golden Oldies and current catalogue to David Tipling, 99 Noah's Ark, Kemsing Park, Kemsing, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PD.

(BB166)

FEW BOOKS (Private). SAE, N. Gartshore, Crinnis, Church Knowle, Dorset BH20 5NG. (BB167)

BARGAIN TELESCOPE, Bausch & Lomb/Bushnell Discoverer 15-60 x 60. Superb condition, excellent optics. £100. Mike Evans, 18 Eachard Road, Cambridge. Ring (0223) 467571. (BB188)

PRISMA TELESCOPE +20 xW.A. and 30x eyepieces. £80 (incl. p. & p.). (0243) 776487. (BB129)

LEITZ TRINOVID 10 x 40 B, with case. Good condition. £195. Evenings 0755 30249. (BB155)

BWP Volumes 1-4, RSPB Edition. Excellent condition except dust wrappers faded on spines. £200 including p&p. Telephone 0509 212952 (evenings). (BB176)

BIRDS OF THAILAND (Lekagul & Round 1991). Unwanted, mint condition copy. £25 + postage. Tel. 0582 573807. (BB174)

BANNERMAN – BIRDS OF BRITISH ISLES. Vol. 1 (no d/w); Vols 2 & 3 (with d/ws), all vgc, £40 each; Vol. 5 (used) £50 inc p&p. Tel. 0483 766517 after 7pm. (BB175)

WITHERBY Sound Guide to British Birds, Miles, North, Simms and Fisher. 2 L.P. boxed as new. Offers. B. J. Hill, 0278 784161. (BB126)

BWP (RSPB Edition). Vols 1-5, £250. Ring Hawkins 0322 225323. (BB179)

BRITISH BIRDS. Bound volumes 64-81 inclusive (1971-1988). Complete £250. Unbound with indexes 82-84 inclusive £10 each. Telephone (0537) 55480. (BB181)

BRITISH BIRDS August 1976 (Vol. 69) to 1991 (Vol. 84) with indices. As new. Offers. Haddy, 5 Southill Garden Drive, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9UP. (BB180)

BIRDS OF AFRICA, Vol. 1-3, mint condition, £140. Compact edition of Birds of India and Pakistan, Alan & Ripley, Ed. 1, good condition £32. Evenings 0224 312173. (BB127)

BRITISH BIRDS. Vol. 64-84 (1971-1991) unbound, complete with indices. Mint condition. £10 per vol. + p&p. Entire proceeds to RSPB BARN OWL APPEAL. Tel. 05447 216. (BB130)

SLIK D2 TRIPOD – Very good condition. Offers please to Lincoln (0522) 754373.

LEWINGTON'S Field Guide to the Rare Birds of B & E. Duplicate copy, in mint condition – £12 (inc. p&p). Tel. 086 730 7308 (eves). (BB153)

L. JONSSON – Birds of Mountains (£13) and Med/Alps (£17) inc. p.p. – Tel. 0483 766517 after 7p.m. (BB154)

BRITISH BIRDS FOR SALE. Volumes 1957-1962 bound, Volumes 1971-1988 unbound. With indexes. Offers, tel. 0934 416185. (BB177)

BRITISH BIRDS Volumes 1947-1984. Complete including indexes. Mainly unbound. Single volumes and/or runs for sale. Offers, tel. (031) 668 4950. (BB178)

BIRDWATCHING IN LESBOS. Find out the sites to visit, the birds to see. Full description of sites with maps plus bird list. 45 pages. £4.75. Williams, 87 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1DE. (BB189)

WANTED

PETER SCOTT Original painting required. 0524 701801. (BB148)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 6 June 1992

263 **English names of West Palearctic birds** *T. P. Inskipp and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock on behalf of the BOU Records Committee and 'British Birds'*

290 Seventy-five years ago . . .

291 **Mystery photographs** *178* Pied Wheatear *Erik Hirschfeld*

293 **Bird Photograph of the Year** *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr R. J. Chandler and Don Smith*

299 **The 'British Birds' Best Annual Bird Report Award** *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr R. J. Chandler and Robert Gillmor*

Notes

308 Foot-trembling behaviour of Dotterel *Anthony A. Cooper*
309 Sequential polyandry by Golden Plovers *Raymond Parr*
309 Feeding behaviour of Little Stints *Philip Perry*
311 Redshank habitually swimming to avoid human beings *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*
311 Exceptionally bold Pomarine Skua *Ian Spence*
312 Black-headed Gull drinking flooding water *E. C. Brett*
313 Lesser Black-backed Gull corpse scavenged by sheep *Peter McDougall*
313 Grey Wagtail dividing clutch between two nests *P. I. Morris*
313 Feeding behaviour of Marsh Tit *P. I. Morris*
314 Feeding association between Coal Tits and Woodcock *Dr A. P. Radford*
314 Use of House Martin nests by Blue Tits for breeding *Dr D. A. C. McNeil*
315 Attempted copulation by Great Tits during snowfall and freezing conditions *Greg Alexander*
315 Great Grey Shrike eating hawthorn berries *The late Johann C. Eyre Dickinson*

Letters

316 Reidentification *Simon Aspinall*
317 Spectacled Warbler moult *David Norman*
317 Binocular and telescope warranties and 'grey imports' *R. Allison*
318 Apparent tameness of rarities *P. I. Morris*
318 Conservation *Dr Stan da Prato*

Reviews

318 'The Birds of Fair Isle' by J. N. Dymond *R. A. Hume*
319 'Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse: birds of dry places' by Paul A. Johnsgard *Rod Martins*

320 **Short reviews**

321 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

322 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

322 **Diary dates** *Mrs Sheila D. Cobban*

Announcements

324 Forthcoming 'BB'-SUNBIRD birdwatching trips
324 Books in British BirdShop

Requests

324 'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB'
324 Volunteers for ringing of waders in Bahrain *Dr Saeed Mohammad and Erik Hirschfeld*
325 Vagrants in Seychelles *Adrian Skerrett*
325 Do you like 'BB' as it is?

325 **News and comment** *Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch*

327 **Monthly marathon**

328 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

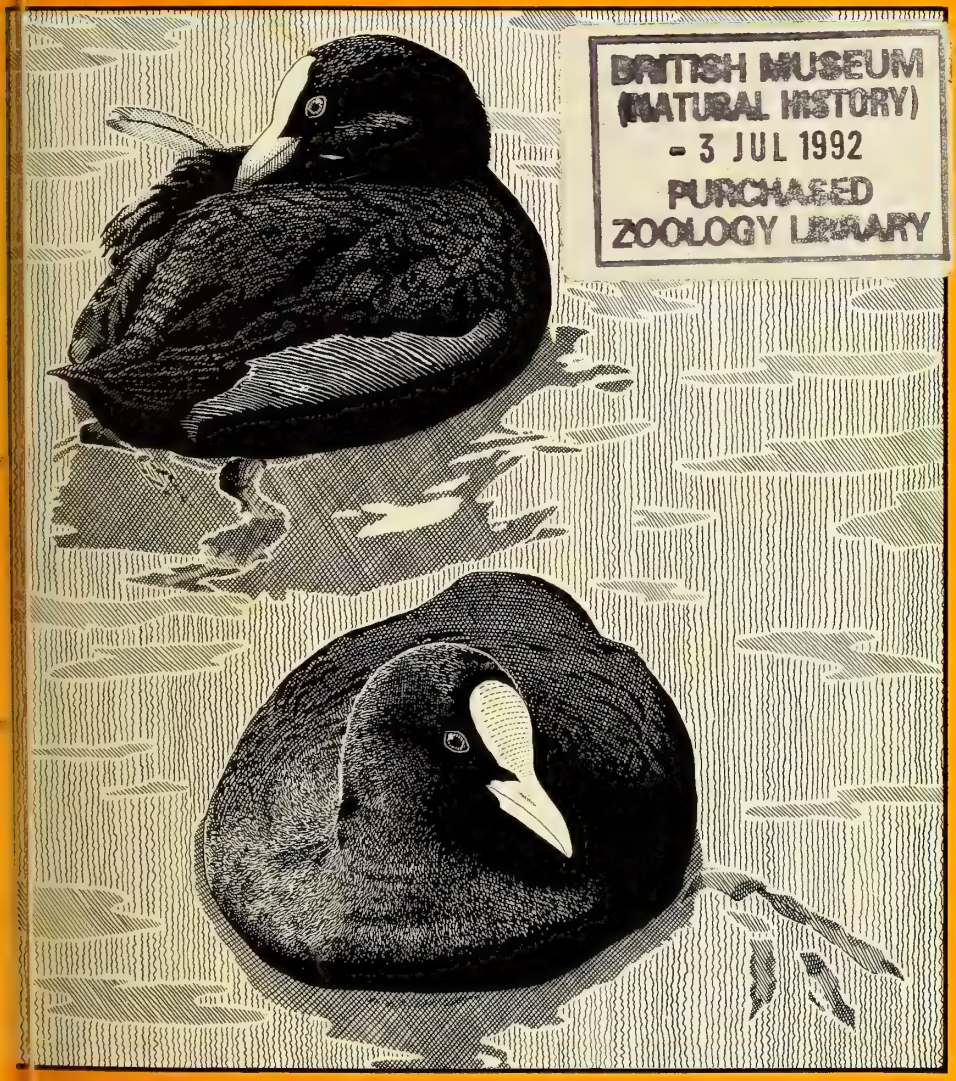
Line-drawing: 263 Black-throated Diver (*David Quinn*)

Front cover: Pied Wagtails (*John M. Walters*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

25 12

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 7 July 1992



BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 3 JUL 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Rarities Committee news and announcements

Points of view: exotics

lackburnian Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic

Waders in the Soviet Union

Lesser Scaup: new to the Western Palearctic

ystery photographs • Reviews • Notes • News and comment • Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, R. A. Hume, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £42.30, IR£49.40 or $79.80. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £34.40, IR£40.20 or $64.80; personal: airmail outside Europe £57.75, IR£67.45 or $109.00. Single back copies £4.40, IR£5.15 or $8.20.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984); names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

4 HIGH STREET
ARNET, HERTS.
N5 5SZ
OW OPEN 7 DAYS
1m-6pm
HONE 081-449 1445
HONE 081-441 7748

RSPB Business Supporter

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB

OPEN 7 DAYS
9am-6pm
PHONE 0485 210101

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR

EGLETON NATURE RESERVE
RUTLAND WATER FRI 4TH, SAT 5TH, SUN 6TH SEPT.

"IN FOCUS" at SLIMBRIDGE

NEW SHOWROOM AT WWT, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS. OPEN THE SECOND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH STARTING 9th & 10th MAY; 13th & 14th JUNE; 11th & 12th JULY & 8th & 9th AUGUST.

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

SUMMER
ELD EVENT PROGRAMME

focus are pleased to offer our
stomers some of the best view-
facilities throughout the UK in
njunction with the RSPB, County
sts and other organisations. Full
tical demon- strations are pre-
nted, usually from working hides.
ormation and location packs are
ailable for all events which are
d from 10.00 am-4.00 pm. We ad-
e, for your convenience, appoint-
nts for the two-day events which
n be arranged by writing or tele-
oning either of our showrooms.

FISHERS GREEN
LEE VALLEY
ESSEX
SUN 12TH JULY
SUN 9TH AUG

CLEY VISITOR CENTRE, NORFOLK
TUES 7TH JULY
TUES 4TH AUG
AUG BANK HOLS
SAT 29 AUG
SUN 30 AUG
MON 31 AUG
TUES 1 SEPT

BROOMHILL FLASH
BARNSLEY
SAT 27TH JUNE
SUN 28TH JUNE

TRIMLEY MARSH
FELIXSTOWE
SUN 28TH JUNE

CARLTON MARSH
LOWESTOFT
SUN 5TH JULY

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY
DORSET
SAT 11TH JULY

ARUNDEL WWT
SUSSEX
SAT 18TH JULY
SUN 19TH JULY
& SAT 15TH AUG
SUN 16TH AUG

ABBERTON, NR COLCHESTER
ESSEX
SUN 19TH JULY
SPECIAL OPEN DAY
MEET TONY SOPER

CHEW VALLEY LAKE
AVON
SAT 25TH JULY
SUN 26TH JULY

LANDGUARD BIRD OBSERVATORY
FELIXSTOWE
SUN 26TH JULY
(OPEN DAY)

BLACKTOFT SANDS
HUMBERSIDE
SAT 1ST AUG
SUN 2ND AUG

MEDWAY WILDLIFE WEEKEND
RIVERSIDE PARK
GILLINGHAM
SAT 22ND AUG
SUN 23RD AUG

AUSCH & LOMB	£
ite 7x30 BGAP	599.00
ite 8x42BGA	659.00
ite 10x42BGA	659.00
ustom 8x36B	229.00
ustom 10x40BGA	249.00
gacy 8x24	89.00
ite 22x60BGA	309.00
ite 15x-45x60BGAP	369.00
ite 77	385.00
ite 77ED	775.00
xWA	148.00
x	138.00
-60x Zoom	198.00
se	33.95
oto Adaptor	189.00

ICA	£
inovid 8x20BC	199.00
inovid 10x25BC	239.00
inovid 8x20BCA	239.00
inovid 10x25BCA	255.00
se for Mini	16.00
inovid 7x42BA	649.00
inovid 8x42BA	649.00
inovid 10x42BA	649.00

ARL ZEISS	£
isgner 8x20BT*P	295.00
isgner 10x25BT*P	319.00
alyt 8x20BP	249.00
alyt 10x25BP	269.00
alyt 8x20BGA	315.00
alyt 8x30BGATP	529.00
alyt 7x42BGAT	639.00
alyt 10x40BGAT	639.00
alyt 10x40BT	689.00
alyt 8x56BGAT	769.00
x50 Porro GAT	1190.00
x50 BGA	£2850.00

ccessories	£
anguard	8.00
e Cups (set)	16.00
e Cups Hard (set)	16.00
nyard	5.00
de Lanyard	15.00
are Case from	19.00

KON	£
20CFIII	69.00
25CFIII	79.00
23CFII	85.00
x25CFII	89.00
20DCF	135.00
x25DCF	150.00
32 BGA	379.00
x42BGA	399.00
40DCF	539.00
35E	199.00
30E	229.00
x35E	249.99
12x24DCF	329.00
oldscope II 20x60	304.00
x-45x	379.00

Fieldscope EDII 20x60	555.00
20x-45x60	629.00
15x & 20x	75.00
30x & 40x	75.00
60x	80.00
20x-45x Zoom	147.00
Hoya MC Filter	20.00
Rubber Hood	10.00
Photo Kit	168.00
Stay-on Case	45.00
Spotting Scope 20x60GA	199.00
15x-45x60GA	265.00
20x	34.95
15-45x Zoom	100.00

SWIFT	£
Triyte 7x42BGA	148.00
Triyte 8x42BGA	148.00
Triyte 10x42BGA	150.00
Audubon HR5 8.5x44	230.00
Audubon 7x35BGA	329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body	149.00
15-45x Zoom	49.00
20x	20.00
Case	15.00

QUESTAR	£
Field Model 3.5" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with 50x-80x Hood, Case	2200.00
30x-50x	130.00
80x-130x	130.00
Erector Prism	289.00

OPTOLYTH	£
Alpin 8x30BGA	227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA	257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA	249.00
Alpin 10x50BGA	268.00
Touring 8x30BGA	395.00
Touring 7x42BGA	445.00
Touring 10x40BGA	445.00
TBS HD Body	549.99
TBG HD Body	549.00
TBS 80 Body	390.00
TBG 80 Body	390.00
20x WA	122.00
30x WA	77.00
30x WA (new)	135.00
40x WA (new)	77.00
22x-60x Zoom	159.00
Soft Case	29.00
Hard Case	35.00
Stay-on Case for TBS/TBG	45.00

KOWA	£
TS-601	219.00
TS-602	199.00
20x WA	64.00
25x	54.00
27x WA	94.00
20x-60x Zoom	109.00
Case	22.95
TSN-1	316.00
TSN-2	316.00
TSN-3	636.00
TSN-4	636.00
20x-60x Zoom	169.00
20x WA	109.00
25x	69.00
30x WA	139.00
40x	69.00
60x	119.00
77x	109.00
Skua Case	39.95
Rear Dust Dome	15.00
Spare OG Cover	6.00
27x WA (screw fit)	59.00
Screw/Bay Adapter	20.00
Case for TSN	24.95
Photo Adapter 800mm	129.00
Photo Adapter 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON	£
Vega II 8x30	49.95
Vega II 8x40	54.95
DIOPTRON 8x42	122.00
DIOPTRON 10x42	125.00
DIOPTRON 10x60	135.00
HR 8x32MC	152.00
HR 7x42MC	157.00
HR 8x42MC	155.00
HR 10x42MC	162.00
HR 10x50MC	178.00
HR Body 80mm	269.00
30x WA	33.00
27x80x zoom	85.00
HR Body, 22x & case	179.95
HR GA, 22x & case	189.95
HR 45, 22x & case	219.95
HR Body, 20x-60x & case	219.95
HR GA 20-60x & case	229.95
HR 45 20-60x & case	249.95
25x, 40x, 22x WA	32.00
Classic IF60	110.00
18x40WA	24.00
25x	24.00
25x HP	27.00
18x-45x zoom	61.00
Classic IF75	140.00
22xWA	24.00
30x	27.00
22x-47x zoom	61.00
Piccolo	128.00
Eye pieces	from 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60	355.00
Piccolo ED 20-60x60	399.00
Photo kits	from 30.00
Cases for scopes	15.00
Macro monocular	50.00

ROSS	£
Cavendish 8x42B	139.95
Hanover 10x42B	149.95
Regent 8x42B	169.95
Kensington 10x42B	179.95

REDFIELD	£
7x35BA	249.00
10x50BA	299.00
20-45x60GA	299.55

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS	£
Opticron 20x80	390.00
Opticron 30x80	395.00

SWAROVSKI	£
10x40 Diana	372.00
7x30SLC	353.00
8x30SLC	365.00
8x20B	220.00
AT80 Body	547.00
22x WA	72.00
32x WA	124.00
20x-60x Zoom	164.00
Case	93.00

BUSHNELL	£
Spacemaster Body	145.00
Spacemaster GA Body	178.00
15x-45x Zoom	79.00
22x WA	32.00
Case	20.00
Photo Kit	30.00

VELBON	£
Victory 350	39.95
D-500	59.95
D-600	69.95
D-700	79.95

CULLMAN	£
Hide Clamp	54.95
Shoulder Pod	29.95
Q/R System	10.95
Q/R Plate	5.95

SLIK	£
Master D-3	89.95

MANFROTTO	£
290/128	95.00
290B/128	99.00
144/128	105.00
144B/128	109.00
Tripod Strap	14.95
Q/R Plate	5.95
Monopod 079B	29.95
Monopod 134B	29.95

BENBO	£
Trekker with Cullman Video Head	89.95
Trekker Monopod	29.95
95 Monopod	34.95

ACCESSORIES	£
Car Window Mount	26.00
Universal Mount	26.00
Hide Clamps	38.00
Rainguards	from 3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth	3.00
Tripod Strap	6.95
Lanyards	from 4.00
Dust Away	3.95
Double Eyepiece Case	9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case	24.50

CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new equipment can be covered for a 3 year period from date of purchase. In the event of equipment failure for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for full details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. We are a completely independent company whose only concern is that our customers select the correct instrument for their personal needs.

MAIL ORDERS
Just add £2.00 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day as we receive your cheque. All goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa cards will be despatched same day.

SECONDHAND
Instruments always available. Turnover is fast but we now produce a comprehensive list. Phone or write.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition Bins and Scopes

HOW TO FIND US (NORFOLK)
We are 500 yds east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car park.

HOW TO FIND US (BARNET)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECONDHAND SCOPE. Ask for details.

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK at Briarfields Hotel, Titchwell when goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased.

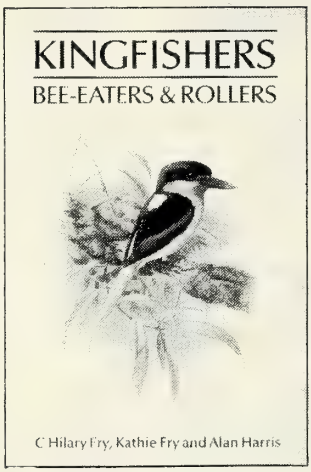
INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED ZEISS, LEITZ, KOWA, B&L etc. Ask for details.

"In focus Equipment Guide"
Fully illustrated 82 page Paperback 1st Edition £3.95

As the UK's number one birdwatching optics supplier, **in focus** is proud to sponsor the 'County Bird Race' and 'The British Birdwatching Fair'. As a result of these and other ventures, **in focus** has directly contributed over £30,000 to local, national and international bird conservation over the last twelve months.

British Birdwatching Fair

(D154)



NEW

KINGFISHERS
BEE-EATERS & ROLLERS
A HANDBOOK
C Hilary Fry, Kathie Fry
and Alan Harris

A single volume of all that is known about the world's 123 species of kingfishers, bee-eaters and rollers. Text and 40 superb colour plates are co-ordinated with emphasis on behaviour, field characteristics and identification. 40 colour plates and 32 figures cased and jacket · **£27.99**

HELM

Available through bookshops or in case of difficulty contact: **Christopher Helm – A&C Black**, PO Box 19, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 3SF
tel: (0480) 212 666 fax: (0480) 405014

(D152)

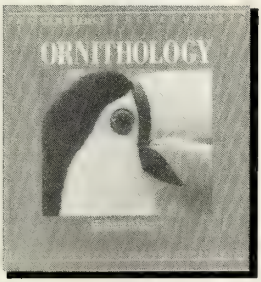
The Cambridge Guide to Ornithology

MICHAEL BROOKE and TIM BIRKHEAD

Widely acclaimed since publication, this uniquely comprehensive, highly-illustrated reference manual is a must for all bird enthusiasts.

'... if my ornithology library had to be reduced from its current 1000-plus strength to just 4 or 5 books, this is one of the volumes that would stay in ...a rarity among bird books, for it really does break new ground ...'

David Tomlinson, *New Scientist*



£24.95 HB 372 pp. 261 x 268 mm

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU

(D156)



FIELD DAYS

lternative venues to Morden, at hich you can try and buy our quipment IN THE FIELD are given elow. Kay Optical will be at the isitor/Information Centre in each ase. Repairs can also be handed in.

Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
n the B2145 into Selsey, West ussex, on **Sundays 28th June, 6th July, 30th August** and **27th eptember** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve
n the A25 between Riverhead and evenoaks Bat and Ball station on **undays 5th July, 2nd August** nd **6th September** (10.00am to .00pm).

Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir
bout 4 miles south of the A25/ 21 junction (with access from the 2042 or B2027; the Information entre is to the north of the eservoir) on **Sundays 19th July, 6th August** and **20th eptember** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

Bewl Water
n the A21, just south of amberhurst in the Education entre on **Sunday 28th June, 6th July, 30th August** and **27th eptember** (10.00am to 4.00pm). Show this advert for half price arking. Refund with purchase.

Alton Water
uffolk, near Ipswich, on the 1080 between Holbrook and tutton. In the Visitor/Information entre on **Sunday 21st June** and **9th July** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

College Lake Wildlife Centre
ear Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off ie A41) close to Bulbourne. In the isitor Centre (main, central hide) n **14th June, 23rd Aug** and **20th eptember** (10.00am to 4.00pm).

Hanningfield Reservoir
ff the A130 north of Basildon, ssex, on **Sunday 9th August** 0.00am to 4.00pm)

Slimbridge, Glos.
A5, Jct 13) Village Hall (on the ft, halfway along village road into ie W&WT). **Saturday 25th July** nd **Monday 3rd August** 0.00am to 4.00pm).

REE TRIPOD, WORTH £40
OLIGOR) with certain* elescopes – or pay the extra or a different tripod.

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

Some examples of our stocks:

ZEISS	£
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
800mm RA mirror lens kit	299
SWAROVSKI *	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	329
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
* FREE WITH SCOPE *	
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA *	
TSN-1 (45°) body	316
TSN-2 body	316
TSN-3 body	636
TSN-4 body	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	179
TS 602 scope body (45°)	179
27x (WA) eyepiece	100
20x (WA) eyepiece	55
25x (WA)	48
20-60x zoom	99
Case	20
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope body	149
25x eyepiece	30
27x (WA) eyepiece	64
OPTOLYTH *	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250

(We still have a few items at pre-increase prices)

	£
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
20-60x zoom EP	72
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT *	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
OBSERVATION	
Greenkat 20 x 60	150
Greenkat 20 x 80	215
MONOCULARS	
8 x 20 RP with microscope	80
8 x 30 GA RP	80
10 x 30 GA RP	81
NIGHT VISION	
Sentinel 70mm image intensifier	1290
ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Slik 444 'Sport'	79
Slik 'Shogun'	99
Manfrotto 144B/200	105
Manfrotto 190B/200	93
Manfrotto 290B/200	93
Soligor	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps, from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports**
 including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit**
 (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

(D151)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

NEW COST SAVING OPTIONS Now Available



RELIABLE COMPREHENSIVE

IT'S THE BEST

RARE BIRD ALERT BIRD PAGERS



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS FOR YOURSELF:

The BEST news service

There's no longer any need to wonder WHAT the latest bird news is; WHEN you're going to find out (or even HOW MUCH you'll spend finding it).

Simply read all the news, as it happens, on a Rare Bird Alert message pager, including updates, directions, and negative news.

It's reliable, comprehensive and extremely cost effective, with no nasty surprises when the bills come in.

For an info pack with a sample print-out of a days messages and an order form:
call **Dick Filby** on 0603 767799 or call Inter-City, **Free**, and ask for Rare Bird Alert

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

INTER-CITY PAGING

(D155

For great birding...

Sunbirder
Birding package holidays

...the only way to go!

CAPE MAY	20 SEPT-3 OCT FROM	**£990**
Leaders: Paul Holt and Bob Behrstock		
EILAT	4-11/18 NOV FROM	**£465**
Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke		
BHARATPUR	18-27 JAN FROM	**£1050**
Leader: Paul Holt		
EILAT	10-17/24 MARCH FROM	**£475**
Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke		

Details from Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. Tel: 0767-682969.
(Please specify which event you are interested in).

(D130)

FOCALPOINT VISA

The binocular and telescope specialists
Run by birders for birders

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATION
(10.30am–4pm)

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
MARTIN MERE, Burscough, Lancs (M6, Jct 27).
Sunday 16th August.

FINE ART DEPT. — Ask for full price list

SKUA stay-on-the-scope cases Fittings for KOWA, OPTOLYTH, NIKON & PICCOLO	MAIL ORDER OR CALLERS WELCOME	SUPERB VIEWS	OPEN MON-FRI 9.30–5.30
		OPEN SATURDAY 9.30-4.00	CLOSED SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

LEICA – New 'olive-drab' Safari models – all sizes from stock NOW.

BOOK SHELF
Good selection of titles from Poyser, Macmillan, Collins, etc. e.g. Rare Birds, Warblers, Herons of Europe



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 (D150)

(NATURAL HISTORY)
- 3 JUL 1992
PURCHASED

Team Focus Optics' achieved 103 ticks in the National Bird Race in May. A very good first time effort, and they are already looking forward to their participation in 1993!

A craftsman who is also a keen birder whilst working recently on our site ticked 52 species. Plainly the habitat we are creating is attracting more and more birds!

The kestrels have yet again produced chicks and a second brood of moorhen chicks appeared on the 3rd June.

Academic Press- BIRDS OF AFRICA four volume set on offer until 30th September Vols. One to Three £68.00 each Vol. Four-£72.00

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

ZEISS

x40 BGAT*P	639.00
x42 BGAT*P	639.00
x30 BGAT*P	529.00
esign selection	
x20 BT*P	295.00
x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

inovid 8x20 BCA	239.00
inovid 10x25 BCA	255.00
7x42 BA	649.00
8x42 BA	649.00
10x42 BA	649.00

OPTOLYTH

pin 8x40 BGA	246.00
pin 10x40 BGA	249.00
uring 10x40	445.00
S/G 80 Body	390.00
S/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
x-60x zoom EP	159.00
xWA	122.00
xWA	135.00

NIKON

32 DCF RA	380.00
x40 DCF RA	400.00
x30 ECF	229.00
eldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
otting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

lticoat 8x42	169.95
lticoat 10x42	179.95
lticoat 10x50	198.95
id £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	219.00
TS 602 Body	199.00
20x WA	64.00
25x40x	54.00
20x-60x zoom EP	109.00
Case for 601 and 602	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20x WA	109.00
30x WA	139.00
25x40x	69.00
20x-60x zoom EP	169.00
Case for TSN Range	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	129.00
Photo adaptor 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 25x60mm	126.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x H.E.P.	27.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R.Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 7x36 RA.P	599.00
Elite 8x42 RA.P	659.00
Elite 10x42 RA.P	659.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	145.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	159.00
15-45x zoom EP	79.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	239.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	60.50
190 Legs	50.50
055 Legs	73.00
290 B	54.50
200 Video Head	43.00
128 RC Video Head	47.50
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

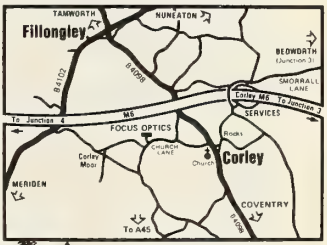
WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday - Saturday 9am until 5pm
Sunday - 10am until 4pm
(Closed on Monday)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:
QUESTAR • FUJINON • FUMOTO MIRADOR • BRESSER • PENTAX REDFIELD • OPTIMA • PRAKTICA
Billingham Equipment Bags.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic.
Send for a price list or come and browse!



FOCUS OPTICS- The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!
Ample free safe parking.

OPENING TIMES
Tue—Sat
9am—5pm
SUNDAY
10am—4pm

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

BARCLAYCARD VISA

(D153)

Bird Illustrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Kowa Telescopes

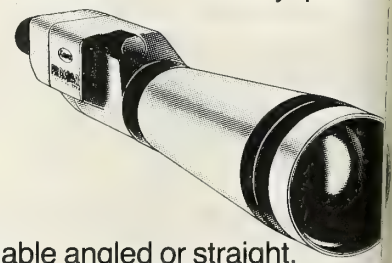


Red-breasted Mergansers displaying. Nik Borrow's award winning 1990 BIY Competition ent

"First, and most important, this telescope is optically magnificent, with phenomenal clarity and a superbly large field of view.

If you are a birder who is seeking the best possible telescope . . . the optical gain is significant, especially in the worst viewing conditions. It is an elite instrument, to be treasured by those fortunate enough to own one."

Dr J T R Sharrock, testing the Kowa TSN-3 with ×20W eyepiece, British Birds June 1990.



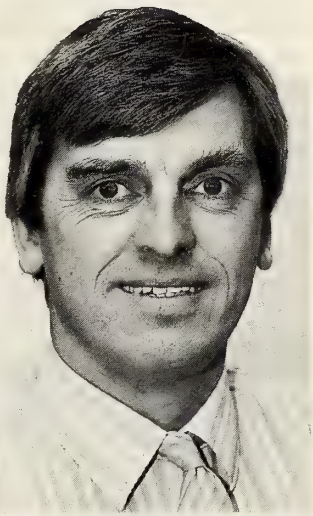
Kowa TSN Fluorite lens scope, available angled or straight.

Kowa A superb image

Officially appointed distributor for Kowa Telescopes
Pyser-SGI Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HA

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 7 JULY 1992

New Editorial Board member



We are pleased to announce that Rob Hume has accepted our invitation to join the Editorial Board of *British Birds*.

Rob's name will be very well known to *BB* readers. His first contribution was in 1970 – a note, jointly with P. L. Garvey, on 'Possible display-flight of four Sparrowhawks [*Accipiter nisus*]' (*Brit. Birds* 63: 132) – closely followed by the write-up of his trail-blazing discovery of 'Ring-billed Gull [*Larus delawarensis*] in Glamorgan: a species new to Britain and Ireland' (*Brit. Birds* 66: 509-512), and papers on the numbers and plumage variation of Mediterranean Gulls *L. melanocephalus* at Blackpill, Glamorgan (with P. G. Lansdown), and on the separation of Common *Sterna hirundo* and Arctic Terns *S. paradisaea* (with the late P. J. Grant) (*Brit. Birds* 67: 17-24, 133-136). Since then, his contributions have increased to an average of half-a-dozen a year, with the variety maintained: identification, patterns of records, and behaviour, with increasing emphasis on informed comment.

For over four years, from November 1979 to March 1984, Rob was joint compiler (with Keith Allsopp) of the monthly summary of migrants and rarities, 'Recent reports' (now replaced by the quarterly 'Seasonal reports'). His views on identification methods are that careful observations of jizz and of plumage details are both important, as expressed in a 1985 letter (*Brit. Birds* 78: 356-357), and his expertise has been passed on via a variety of fieldguides, including *Birds by Character: the fieldguide to jizz identification* (1990), and through his membership of the Rarities Committee, which he joined in 1988. His profile, by Trevor Gunton, was published in 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 215-216).

Rob Hume has been a professional ornithologist with the RSPB for 16 years. He is now Editor of *Birds*, having previously been Editor of *Bird Life* for six years, both magazines winning major awards under his editorship. We are still congratulating ourselves that we have persuaded this modest and multi-talented (but very busy) expert to devote even more of his 'spare time' to helping *BB*. We are delighted to welcome Rob onto the editorial team. EDS

Rarities Committee news and announcements

Sponsored by

ZEISS

Germany

P. G. Lansdown and the Rarities Committee

Committee membership is listed on the inside front cover each month, and on the back of the title page. Following a postal vote by county and regional bird recorders and bird observatories, Grahame Walbridge started his term of membership on 1st April 1992 (*Brit. Birds* 85: 194). Grahame replaced Alan Dean, who retired as the longest-serving member after eight years on the Committee. Alan's all-round identification expertise, which includes a special interest in leaf-warblers *Phylloscopus* and shrikes *Lanius*, his most thorough and instructive comments on records, and his balanced judgments will be sorely missed by the Committee, though not by *British Birds*, on whose Identification Notes Panel he will continue to serve.

The following points of interest arise from the Committee's annual meeting at Blunham, Bedfordshire, on 4th April 1992.

Records of subspecies

Two years ago, the BBRC decided to cease consideration and publication of records of all rare subspecies of species not on its list (*Brit. Birds* 83: 412). This difficult decision was taken in response to a significant increase in the amount of time that the BBRC was having to devote to records of rare subspecies. Many such records were poorly documented, there were too many claims of sight records of subspecies that are safely identifiable only in the hand, and there seemed to be a general lack of appreciation of the variation to be found in the so-called familiar race. The Committee's unwillingness to dismiss records without thorough consideration resulted in a great deal of research and in recirculations of many records, and the time thus spent was quite out of proportion to the number of such records which eventually proved to be fully acceptable.

Nevertheless, in response to pleas from county and regional recorders and from overseas rarities committees, and following discussions with the BOURC, the BBRC has decided once again to consider records, dated 1st January 1991 onwards, of rare subspecies of species not on its list. Records of Teal *Anas crecca* of the race *carolinensis* ('Green-winged Teal') dated after 31st December 1990 will, however, no longer be considered by the Committee and should be submitted to the appropriate county or regional recorder for assessment. The BBRC firmly believes that more research should be carried out by observers before the submission of records of rare subspecies. It needs to be appreciated that the Committee will accept records only of birds that can be assigned positively to a particular, distinctive race; that certain subspecies can

be identified only in the hand; that photographs and/or sound recordings are necessary to establish some races; and that, for clinal species, only the well-marked 'classic' individuals will gain acceptance. The Rarities Committee is looking for well-researched, well-documented records which contain all or most of the distinctive characters of a race. No characters of that race should be noted as absent and no features should be contrary to the appearance of a 'classic' individual. Records of 'possibles' and of presumed clinal intermediates between a rare race and the familiar race cannot be accepted, and the BBRC asks observers and recorders to appreciate its difficulties with such records.

New record form

It would be most helpful to the BBRC if as many records as possible were submitted on the standard record form. To encourage both observers and recorders in its use, the Committee has a new British Birds Rarities Committee record form, as well as a new fact sheet and an updated list of species considered by the Committee. The BBRC is grateful to Ray Murray, Chairman of the Scottish Local Recorders' Conference, for his initiation of and design input to these documents. Copies of all three are available from the Secretary, Michael J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3AZ. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope of suitable size when requesting any of these items, each of which has been produced at A4 size.



134. Rarities Committee annual meeting, Bedfordshire, April 1992. Left to right: J. H. Marchant, S. J. M. Gantlett, R. A. Hume, P. M. Ellis, C. D. R. Heard, G. Walbridge, G. P. Catley, P. G. Lansdown (Chairman), M. J. Rogers (Secretary), Dr C. Bradshaw, P. Clement; Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (Managing Editor). (Alan Brown was travelling abroad.) *(J. T. R. Sharrock)*

Standards of record submissions

Most of the reports submitted to the BBRC are of a good standard; indeed, many are excellent. The small percentage of poorly documented claims of rare birds appears, however, to be increasing. Some of these come from non-

birders, and their rather basic standard is understandable. Disappointingly, a number come from apparently capable observers who seem to be deciding for themselves the minimum content necessary for a record to be accepted by the Committee. This is a risky judgment. Every aspect of a bird's appearance should be covered in a description, unlike in a recent claim of Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*, when the bill was described somewhat scantily and the rest of the bird was not mentioned at all: the BBRC was left wondering what colour the plumage was and, indeed, even whether or not it was a duck. This problem was discussed amusingly but perceptively in the classic *Bill Oddie's Little Black Bird Book* (1980, pages 71-87).

Before submitting a completed record form, an observer should ask himself or herself if everything seen and heard has been included and if what is on the form proves the identification as claimed. The responsibility for proving identifications on paper should be accepted by observers and recorders as well as by the Committee, and identifications should be researched thoroughly, particularly when 'difficult' species are involved. Inexperienced observers should consult more widely, both with their colleagues and with their local recorders, who are in a position to offer expert advice, and experienced observers should make every effort to set a good example and avoid submitting reports which are badly documented or relate to very marginal identifications. It is reasonable for the Committee to assume that all available details are included on a record form and that nothing further is to be gained from referring back to the observer. The BBRC continues to encourage observers to submit their rarity records via county and regional recorders, and to rely upon the recorders to obtain further descriptions in cases where they consider the initial report to be inadequate and more than one observer is involved.

Offshore rarity records

In 1985, the BBRC announced its intention to consider records of rarities 'at sea' around Britain (*Brit. Birds* 78: 472-473), and this policy is to continue. The Committee is grateful to Andy Webb, Leader of the Seabirds at Sea Team, for correcting two points in that original announcement and expanding on a third issue. First, the boundaries inside which rarities are considered by the Committee are more correctly referred to as the UK Economic Exclusion Zone. Secondly, except where the median line between Britain and neighbouring countries is closer, the boundary is 200 nautical miles (370 km), not 200 statute miles (320 km). Thirdly, the exact position of the median line between Britain, Ireland and France is disputed by the governments of the three countries, so the boundary as drawn may change when the differences are resolved.

Election of new member

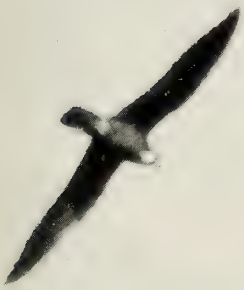
The Committee's nominee for the next vacancy, which will arise on or before 1st April 1993 from resignation or the longest-serving member's automatic retirement, is Andy Stoddart. Andy lives in Norwich, Norfolk, and is well known to the Committee for his full and constructive approach to the submission of records of rarities. He has had several contributions published in *British Birds* and elsewhere on a variety of identification topics.

As usual, we invite other nominations, which should be sent to me by 31st December 1992. If further nominations are received, a postal election will take place, in which county and regional recorders and bird observatories will be invited to vote.

P. G. Lansdown, 197 Springwood, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF2 6UG

Mystery photographs

179 First spotted with binoculars (plate 118), a rapidly disappearing small speck is quickly picked up in a telescope (as shown here). It is gliding on long, pointed wings. Is it a high-flying seabird? Probably not; the cheeks appear to be white and the underparts appear to be blotchy or streaked: no seabird in the Western Palearctic would show this combination.



Size is impossible to judge, for there is no feature to show how far away it is, and no other bird with which to compare it. Could it be a hirundine or a swift? There is a strong superficial resemblance, but the proportions are not right. How about a raptor? It has long, pointed wings: is it a Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*? The tail, however, is not wedge-shaped and the white cheeks contrasting with the rest of the bird are wrong for that species. Now, with raptors in mind, the long wings and tail and the general proportions help us to conclude that we are watching a powerful falcon *Falco*. Could it be a Hobby *F. subbuteo*? It does have something of the shape of a Hobby, and the apparently strongly streaked underparts would fit.

We do, however, need to consider several other, robust falcons: Peregrine *F. peregrinus*, Saker *F. cherrug*, Lanner *F. biarmicus*, Gyr *F. rusticolus* and Eleonora's *F. eleonorae*. Plumage features (apart from the white cheeks) cannot be seen clearly, so we must concentrate on structure.

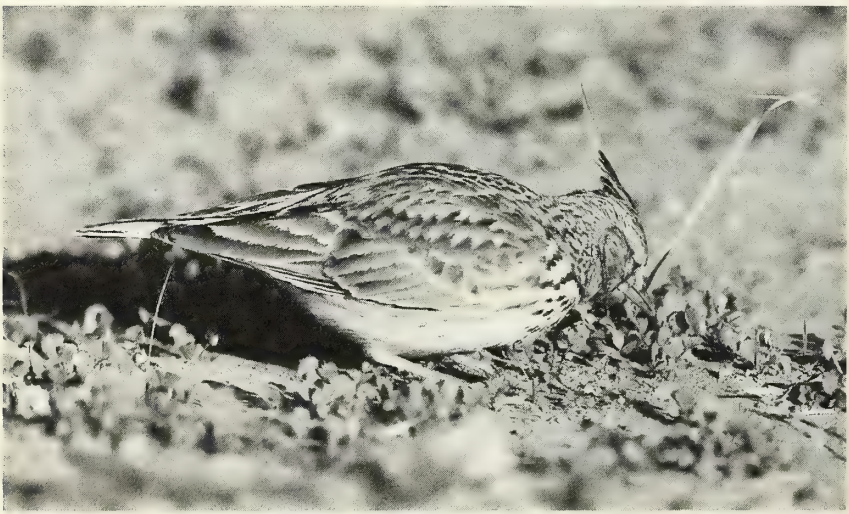
The wings are quite broad, but are very long. The tail is foreshortened, but also looks quite long for a falcon. The wings are certainly far too long and far too narrow, proportionately, for a Gyrfalcon or a Peregrine, both of which also look stockier than our bird, with robust bodies.

We now realise that the apparently dark underwing is another plumage feature that may be relevant, for both Saker and Lanner would have either pale underwing or dark underwing-coverts with pale flight feathers.

We did briefly consider the possibility of a swift at one stage, but the shape is actually not swift-like, which it would be if we were looking at a Hobby. The wings are, indeed, even longer in proportion than are those of a Hobby, giving it an extremely rakish appearance. That would fit Eleonora's Falcon, as would the dark underwing, and, for that matter, the paleness that we now notice around the vent (another reason for dismissing Hobby). Everything seems to fit a pale-phase Eleonora's Falcon (though woe betide anyone who claims a British record on a single such view).

If, from the start, it had been known that the bird was being watched from sea-cliffs on a Mediterranean island, the task of identification would have been much easier. I photographed this Eleonora's Falcon in Cyprus in August 1989. The species has been discussed in a previous 'Mystery photographs' text by R. F. Porter (*Brit. Birds* 73: 472-474, plate 212).

DAVE ODELL
74 The Links, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7LT



136. Mystery photograph 180. Identify the species. Answer next month

Points of view

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

18. Should exotics be condemned or cherished?

It is now illegal to release any non-native species of bird in Britain, other than the Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and the Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*. Many other developed countries similarly ban all introductions of foreign birds, other than species intended for 'sport'.

Such bans are likely to have far more baleful results than earlier over-enthusiasm for introductions. I have discussed elsewhere the pros and cons of introduced and reintroduced species in Britain (Goodwin 1987).

A notable moral thinker and ornithologist (Skutch 1985) contended that, as products of evolution, we *ought* to make value judgments on other organisms. I agree, and think that, when a choice has to be made, we should favour the more distinct or more beautiful species.

If a foreign species is very distinctive, has a limited world range in which it may be at risk, and may be able to live in modern Britain, there is a good case for welcoming it here, even if it *might* compete with some native bird that is plentiful elsewhere.

We already have three long, but precariously, established species to which the above qualifications apply: Mandarin *Aix galericulata*, Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* and Lady Amherst's Pheasant *C. amherstiae*. The adult male of each is not only extremely beautiful, but also very unlike any other bird in the world.

The Mandarin is the most widely established here (Lever 1987, 1991). The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) forbids further releases or translocations of it. Attempts to naturalise it outside Britain failed, except for one population in the USA (Lever 1987), which, ironically, is the one country where it ought not to have been introduced because of the presence there of the related Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*.

Golden and Lady Amherst's Pheasants both have much more restricted ranges in Britain (Ridley 1986), and many attempts to introduce them elsewhere have failed (Lever 1987). Few would disagree that 'the male Lady Amherst's Pheasant is perhaps the most beautiful of all British breeding birds' (Sharrock 1976), and Ridley (1986) is not alone in thinking that it 'is one of the most elegant and colourful of all birds.'

Even if we forget the aesthetic considerations, these three species have greater claim to our attention than do any of our native landbirds, purely on conservation grounds. We ought to encourage them and endeavour to increase their ranges in Britain, which, without human help, the Mandarin may not, and the two pheasants certainly will not, be able to do.

By forbidding any human assistance, the authorities have rendered unlikely the long-term survival here, and possibly everywhere, of these uniquely beautiful birds. These same authorities, however, not only condone but even positively encourage the rapid spread throughout Britain of the Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, a predator which is likely to have an impact on some populations of species which we profess to wish to protect. I question the standards which are being applied.

DEREK GOODWIN
6 Crest View Drive, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent BR5 1BY

REFERENCES

GOODWIN, D. 1987. Introduced and re-introduced birds in Britain. *Avicult. Mag.* 93(4): 226-237.
LEVER, C. 1987. *Naturalized Birds of the World.* New York & Harlow.
— 1991. *The Mandarin Duck.* Princes Risborough.
RIDLEY, M. 1986. Golden Pheasant and Lady Amherst's Pheasant. In LACK, P. *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Calton.
SHARROCK, J. T. R. 1976. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Berkhamsted.
SKUTCH, A. F. 1985. *Life Ascending.* Texas.

Product reports

Items included in this feature have been submitted by the manufacturers or their agents. The reviews are the personal opinions of the reviewers; they are not the result of technical tests, but are assessments made after use in appropriate conditions (e.g. in the field). Neither *British Birds* nor the individual reviewers can accept responsibility for any adverse consequences of opinions stated, and items are accepted for review on this understanding. We aim, however, to be helpful both to our readers and to manufacturers of goods used by birdwatchers. EDS

Swift Viewmaster telescope

This small, neat telescope, with a 45° eyepiece, bears a very close resemblance to the *Bushnell* 'Spacemaster'. Indeed, experiment shows that the lenses supplied with these telescopes are interchangeable.

I enjoyed putting this telescope through its paces, comparing its performance with other telescopes as and when the opportunity arose. It is a compact, lightweight instrument, only 34 cm long, and weighing 1.1 kg. It has a 60-mm objective, and the test instrument was supplied with an interchangeable 15× to 45× zoom eyepiece. The body has a pleasing, dull green finish. A case is not available from *Swift* (it would be a useful addition), but the telescope came with substantial plastic screw-fitting eyepiece and objective covers.

There is the usual 1/4-inch (6.4-mm) Whitworth thread tripod mount, though for some tripods this may not project far enough to avoid contact between the telescope barrel and the tripod head. The review instrument quickly became scratched because of this design detail, though this did not in any way restrict the use of the telescope with my perhaps larger-than-average tripod head.

This was my first experience of a telescope with a 45° eyepiece; I had no difficulty using it, and found that I adapted much more easily than I expected. Indeed, there was an advantage, since, when using the telescope on a tripod, you do not need to raise the tripod so high, so a shorter tripod may be used. A disadvantage is that car windows and the viewing windows in many reserve hides tend to be a little too high for comfortable viewing with the angled eyepiece.

Optically the *Swift* 'Viewmaster' was a match for all but those (generally significantly more expensive) telescopes that have a larger-diameter objective. Even then, I rated it highly in good light, but in poor light at similar magnifications there was some reduction in performance, perhaps as a result of the use of a zoom lens as well as the smaller objective on the review telescope.

The zoom eyepiece worked well up to magnifications of about 30×, beyond which a certain amount of image deterioration occurred. This was no doubt associated with the lesser amount of light transmission at larger magnifications. I was also aware of a reduced field of view compared with other telescopes, but I was not able to compare the *Swift* eyepiece with any other zoom eyepiece of comparable magnification range. I would expect a fixed-focal-length eyepiece of around 20× magnification to give a wider field of view and better light transmission, and this would probably be my

preference compared with a zoom eyepiece. Swift recommend a 27× *Kowa* eyepiece, which is available on special request, but this has not been reviewed.

As a spectacle-wearer, I found the main drawback of the instrument to be the absence of a fold-down eye-cup or high eye-point optical construction, for it has a solid rubber eyepiece surround which results in a very restricted field of view if you do not push up your spectacles. Nevertheless, I happily used this 'scope for several months before writing this review, enjoying its excellent combination of optical performance and compact size. For its price, this is an excellent telescope; if you do not wear spectacles, or are content to push them up, and if low weight and small bulk are important—as when travelling by air—this telescope can be recommended. R. J. CHANDLER

[If any reader would like further details of this product, please send a SAE to Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.]



Blackburnian Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic

David Saunders and Shirley Saunders

On 5th October 1961, DS was nearing the end of his early-morning warden's patrol of the Skomer Island National Nature Reserve, Pembrokeshire (now part of Dyfed). It had been a fruitful walk in overcast conditions, with a number of migrants seen, including Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis*, Blackbirds *Turdus merula*, Song Thrushes *T. philomelos*, Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla*, Goldcrests *Regulus regulus*, Blue Tits *Parus*

caeruleus, Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* and Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs*. Pausing to examine the sheltered cliffs above the North Haven landing beach, he observed a strange bird, the first impression of which, at a distance of some 75 m, was of a grey bird about the size of a Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, but with the build of a warbler.

The cliffs are largely covered by ivy *Hedera helix* at this point, and were well sheltered from the wind, which was south to southeast, force 4-5. The bird worked its way among the vegetation and DS was soon able to obtain clearer views, being astonished to see that it had a bright sulphur-yellow breast, and at once realised that it was a bird new to him. SS was quickly summoned from the warden's house, just a few metres away, and together we watched the bird as it moved about the cliff. The path, immediately above, and the main track to the landing beach, below, both provided ideal vantage points from which to watch without disturbance, at ranges down to some 10 m.

The bird remained on the cliff, being active for most of the day, which turned wet as the rain moved in during the afternoon. Mostly, it was easily seen, but on occasions would disappear for short periods among the thicker ivy. Other species present on the cliff were Robins *Erithacus rubecula*, Stonechats *Saxicola torquata*, Blackbirds, a Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, Blue Tits and a Great Tit *P. major*. A search the following morning failed, alas!, to locate the mystery bird, while the Spotted Flycatcher and Great Tit were also missing, and there were generally fewer birds elsewhere on the island. The wind had freshened overnight to force 6-7, and later in the day veered to the southwest; indeed, it remained stormy until 10th.

None of the books in the small reference library in the warden's house was of assistance in trying to identify the mystery bird. There were no other resident human beings on the island, while the last overnight visitors had left the previous day because of the deteriorating weather conditions (the last day-visitors having landed on 19th September). There was no radio communication with the mainland or with nearby Skokholm, so no means of consulting with anyone who might be able to throw light on the mystery bird.

Description

The following description is based on field notes taken by DS:

SIZE AND SHAPE About that of Pied Flycatcher, but with longer tail and stance of a *Phylloscopus* warbler.

HEAD AND NECK Crown and nape brownish colour, with yellow stripe running from base of bill to above and a little beyond eye. Small, dull yellow patch on ear-coverts.

UPPERPARTS Mantle, back, rump and upperside of tail all grey-black. Two somewhat pale buffish stripes ran lengthways down mantle. Wings greyish, with two small white wing-bars. When seen at close quarters, wings seemed to be finely lined with white.

UNDERPARTS Chin and breast sulphur-yellow, gradually fading to white on flanks and belly. At close quarters, a number of brownish striations were visible on flanks. When seen from below, two small dark marks were noted on outer tail feathers.

BARE PARTS Legs dark brown. Bill black or very dark brown.

BEHAVIOUR Spent most of the time foraging, presumably for insects, amongst the ivy, making only occasional short flights.

Discussion

The subsequent events surrounding the mysterious bird moved rather slowly.



Fig. 1. Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*, Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed, October 1961 (*P. Fullagar*)

I. J. Ferguson-Lees, then executive editor of *British Birds*, in a letter to the authors dated 15th December 1961, said: 'Your description of the strange bird you saw on 5th October is rather puzzling and I am proposing to send that round the Rarity Records Committee to see if other members of it agree with my suggestions.'

Nearly a year later, in a letter to the authors dated 15th October 1962, the then Secretary of the Rarities Committee, C. M. Swaine, wrote: 'We have at last got your "queer passerine" of 5th October 1961 round this Committee twice; it has been to James Baird in the U.S.A. also. The outcome is that we are almost certain the bird was a Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*, a bird of the evergreen woodlands of Manitoba, the Gulf of St Lawrence etc. We cannot be quite sure, however, and feel we must agree with James Baird that it is best regarded as a "probable". Congratulations on taking a very thorough description.

'The Editors of *British Birds* are considering the advisability of publishing a note on it in the magazine.'

In the event, no note was published, and the only references to the occurrence were in Nisbet (1963), where it is listed as a '*Dendroica* warbler, probably

The inclusion of fig. 1 and plates 137-138 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.



137. Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*, Texas, USA, May 1990 (*Phil Palmer*)

138. Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*, Ontario, Canada, May 1984 (*J. Hornbuckle*)



THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



arl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved a world wide reputation for excellence.

n their latest Binocular Survey, the rs of the Universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA 'T' Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge.
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich.
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington.
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle.
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter.
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester.
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale.
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke.
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet.
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley.
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster.
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester.
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney; Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1.
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool.
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich.
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury.
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham.
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden.
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hanmington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing.
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne.
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequp Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequp Photo & Video Centre, Dudley.
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports

Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD. throughout the country.

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

ZEISS
Germany Carl Zeiss

(D961)

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

(D145)

a Blackburnian Warbler but it was not definitely established as such', in Saunders (1963), and in Sharrock (1971).

There the matter rested. The years passed, and the occurrence of North American passerines in western Europe, and in particular in Great Britain and Ireland, has become an accepted, but no less exciting, part of the ornithological year.

For several years in the mid 1980s, the County Bird Recorder for Pembrokeshire, J. W. Donovan, had been urging that we resubmit the record for assessment, and eventually, in late September 1988, we copied the original submission, which in turn he passed to the Rarities Committee. The Committee, following a re-examination of the record, agreed that the bird in question was a Blackburnian Warbler.

The record was then sent to the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union, which, in 1990, also accepted the record as being of a Blackburnian Warbler, the first for the Western Palearctic (BOURC 1991).

Autumn 1961

The autumn of 1961 was notable for the number of North American waders seen throughout Britain & Ireland (Swaine 1962), including five species in Wales. Among these was an Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* on Skomer on 19th-20th October and a Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* on Skokholm on 9th-10th October.

In addition, a Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* on Bardsey on 10th October was found dead the following day. Finally, an American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* was seen on Ouessant, France, on 10th October, the first for the Western Palearctic. The two passerines may well have been sent on their transatlantic journey by hurricane 'Frances', which had swept northeastwards along the eastern seaboard of North America on 8th-9th October. One can ponder on the riches which lurked unnoticed and undreamed of in the Isles of Scilly, and indeed elsewhere, that autumn.

Subsequent records

There have been two further records of Blackburnian Warbler in western Europe: one in Iceland in October 1987, and then, on 7th October 1988, a first-winter male on Fair Isle, Shetland (Rogers *et al.* 1990), the latter's departure on autumn migration having most probably occurred at the same time as the commencement of the resubmission of the Skomer record. In his predictions concerning Nearctic birds in Europe, Robbins (1980) placed the Blackburnian Warbler with some 34 other species in the lowest category of probabilities for a successful transatlantic crossing. With two records in 28 years, how long will eager British ornithologists have to wait before the third?

Distribution

The Blackburnian Warbler is a widespread breeding bird through much of northeastern North America. Coniferous or mixed woodlands with tall mature trees are its main requirement, and there it spends most of its time in the high canopy, so much so that Bohlen (1989) referred to it as 'the pain in the neck bird'.

In Canada, it breeds in central Alberta, then eastwards from central Saskatchewan through central and southern Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the extreme southwest of Newfoundland (Godfrey 1986). In the United States, it occurs from central Minnesota eastwards to the Atlantic seaboard, and south in the Appalachian Mountains to northwestern South Carolina and northwestern Georgia (AOU 1983).

In the autumn, Blackburnian Warblers move south through the eastern United States, parts of Central America and the Caribbean, to winter from Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela south through Ecuador to Peru and Bolivia (AOU 1983).

As in its breeding range, the Blackburnian Warbler is primarily a bird of the canopy, though it will forage at all levels, and in small groups will accompany mixed bands of tanagers, flycatchers and other species (Ridgely & Tudor 1989).

Why Blackburnian?

Many authors have commented upon the bright and unmistakable colours of the adult male Blackburnian Warbler, especially the fiery orange breast and contrasting black upperparts. In assessing the merits of the wood-warblers, Tufts (1961) said 'Those who have seen a male Blackburnian Warbler in spring plumage, the sun glinting on his flaming breast, with his other contrasting colours, perhaps against a background of grey poplar buds bursting into leaf, generally admit that he merits a place high on the list. His song is not in keeping with his fine feathers.'

Chapman (1966) wrote 'he seems like some bright plumaged tropical bird who has lost its way and wandered to northern climes'; 'Like a diminutive oriole' in the words of Murray Spiers (1985); while Forbush (1955) said that 'no engraver can represent in full intensity the beautiful flaming colours of this warbler's throat.'

With such plumage and descriptions it would be easy to assume the origin of its name to be the fiery colours. Not so; it was named after Anna Blackburne (1726-1793) of Warrington, Lancashire. Although referred to as Mrs Blackburne, she in fact never married, but devoted her life to the establishment of a natural history museum, first at the family home at Orford Hall, and then, on the death of her father, at nearby Fairfield (Wystrach 1974, 1977).

Anna Blackburne's fifth brother, Ashton, resided for many years in the New York area and collected birds for his sister's museum. One of the numerous specimens was that of a warbler which was reported by Latham (1783) from a description by Thomas Pennant, who also published this in 1785. Although originally named *Motacilla blackburniae*, it had previously been described in 1776 from a specimen collected in French Guiana and named *Motacilla fusca* from its dark upperparts.

Acknowledgments

We should like to thank R. M. Lockley for his encouragement at the time of our observations and the publication of the first details in *Nature in Wales*. Thanks also to J. W. Donovan and G. Rees

for their persistence with regard to the resubmission of the record. To S. B. Evans for assistance in tracking down Anna Blackburne. To Miss Linda Birch, Librarian at the Edward Grey Institute, and to Peter Morgan, Keeper of Zoology at the National Museum of Wales, for help with references. Finally, to Dr P. Fullagar, who, having missed the bird by less than 24 hours through leaving a day early because of deteriorating weather, then painted it from our description.

Summary

A Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* seen on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, on 5th October 1961 was at first considered only a 'probable'. In the light of increasing knowledge of transatlantic vagrancy by passerines from North America, the record was eventually resubmitted and is now accepted as the first for the Western Palearctic. There has been one subsequent occurrence in Britain and Ireland, on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 7th October 1988.

References

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. *The AOU Check-list of North American Birds.* 6th edn. Lawrence.

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois.* Bloomington & Indianapolis.

British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. 1991. Fourteenth report (August 1990). *Ibis* 133: 218-222.

Chapman, F. M. 1966. *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America.* New York.

Forbush, E. H. 1955. *A Natural History of American Birds in Eastern and Central North America.* Boston.

Godfrey, W. E. 1986. *Birds of Canada.* 2nd edn. Ottawa.

Latham, J. 1783. *A General Synopsis of Birds.* London.

Murray Spiers, J. 1985. *Birds of Ontario.* Ontario.

Nisbet, I. C. T. 1963. American passerines in western Europe, 1951-62. *Brit. Birds* 56: 204-217.

Pennant, T. 1785. *Arctic Zoology.* Vol. 2. London.

Ridgely, R. S., & Tudor, G. 1989. *The Birds of South America. Vol. 1: the Oscine Passerines* Oxford.

Robbins, C. S. 1980. Predictions of future Nearctic landbird vagrants to Europe. *Brit. Birds* 73: 448-457.

Rogers, M. J., & the Rarities Committee. 1990. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1989. *Brit. Birds* 83: 439-496.

Saunders, D. R. 1963. Notes on a probable Blackburnian Warbler on Skomer and other American birds in Wales, Autumn 1961. *Nat. in Wales* 8: 155-157.

Sharrock, J. T. R. 1971. Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland during 1958-67. Part 5. Pectoral Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull and American land-birds. *Brit. Birds* 64: 93-113.

Swaine, C. M. 1962. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1961. *Brit. Birds* 55: 562-584.

Tufts, R. W. 1961. *The Birds of Nova Scotia.* Halifax.

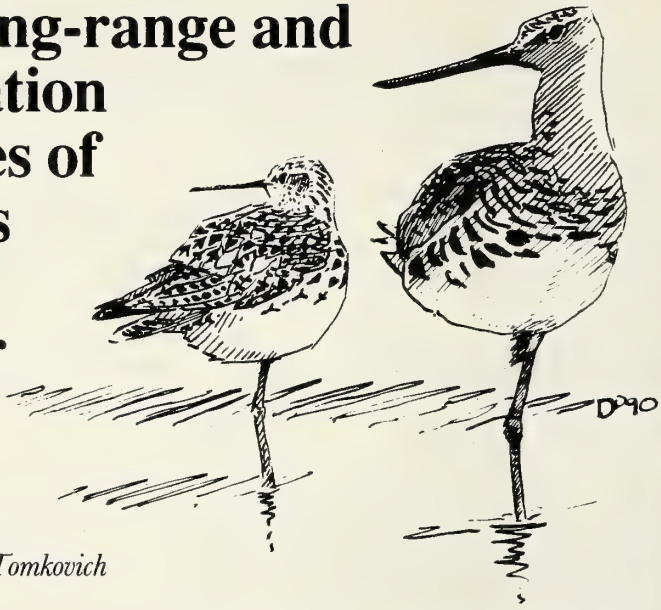
Wystrach, V. P. 1974. A note on the naming of the Blackburnian Warbler. *J. Soc. Biblphy Nat. Hist.* 7 [1]: 89-91.

— 1977. Anna Blackburne [1726-1793] — a neglected patroness of natural history. *J. Soc. Biblphy Nat. Hist.* 8 [2]: 148-168.

David Saunders and Shirley Saunders, Woosung, Hakin, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire SA73 3EB

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) and Dr Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) have commented as follows: 'During the circulation of this record to the current Rarities Committee, its members expressed full agreement with their predecessors' identification of the bird as Blackburnian Warbler. With the advantage of the now-familiar pattern of dates and localities for Nearctic passerines which reach Britain and Ireland, however, the current Committee considered that the earlier caution should not continue to be applied and unreservedly accepted the identification. This decision was endorsed by the BOURC, which had no hesitation in accepting the Blackburnian Warbler as being of natural origin (*Brit. Birds* 83: 489; *Ibis* 133: 220), and the species was accorded Category A status on the British and Irish list.' Eds

Breeding-range and population changes of waders in the former Soviet Union



Pavel S. Tomkovich

The ever-increasing impact on the environment of human activities has long since been comparable to the great geological upheavals of the past. It is therefore not surprising that there are quite frequent changes in birds' distributions and population levels. Waders are one group of birds for which one might expect the most significant modern population changes, since typical wader habitats (wetlands) have undergone the most marked transformation over the last half-century. Large-scale measures leading to the destruction of natural wetlands within the area of the former USSR* include the ploughing of water meadows and steppes and their subsequent use for arable cultivation, draining bogs, and the disappearance of the formerly large number of millponds in association with the destruction of watermills. On the other hand, certain artificial waterbodies and wetlands have created favourable habitat for waders: these include canals and water-collection tanks where irrigation is used in agriculture in the south of the Soviet Union, and also fishponds, rice-fields (paddyfields), water-settlement tanks, and certain barrages used for the generation of hydroelectricity.

Unfortunately, the population and range changes of many birds, in particular waders, are usually not studied with the desired degree of thoroughness. There are two main reasons for this. First, the low and extremely uneven 'density' of ornithologists in the Soviet Union. The number of Soviet ornithologists has increased in recent decades and there are now about 1,000 (Ilyichev & Flint 1982), though, bearing in mind the

*Notwithstanding recent political changes which have led to the break-up of the Soviet Union or USSR, these terms are retained here for convenience and are used throughout this paper to signify the territory occupied by the former union of 15 now-independent republics.

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 344-365, July 1992]

huge size of the country (22,400,000 km^2), this means, at a rough estimate, over 22,000 km^2 per ornithologist. Nor should it be forgotten that amateur ornithologists, who give such invaluable help to professionals in the West, are very few in the USSR. The second main reason is to some extent related to the first: this is the fact that population-monitoring and census studies are poorly developed in the Soviet Union, so that it is almost impossible to make strict quantitative comparison between different time periods.

The result of the above is that any analysis of wader population changes usually has to be based on only very approximate estimates of numbers, which will reveal only the really big changes; in the majority of cases, relevant data on numbers are simply not available. This paper is based, therefore, mainly on data from faunistic studies. As such studies have been carried out by different ornithologists at different times, with varying degrees of thoroughness and often in adjacent rather than exactly the same area, it is not always possible to distinguish with certainty between changes in our knowledge and real changes in the distribution and population of particular species.

There are two Soviet handbooks which provide a detailed account of wader distribution in the country: Dementiev & Gladkov (1951) and Kozlova (1961, 1962), the work by Kozlova adopting a more critical approach in its review of the available data. Attempts in recent decades more accurately to define wader distributions and to identify any changes taking place have invariably taken these books as their baseline, and it seems sensible, therefore, to make comparisons in the present paper with the information presented in these same handbooks.

In many cases, present knowledge suggests that wader breeding ranges differ significantly from the picture presented by Dementiev & Gladkov (1951) and Kozlova (1961, 1962). This is primarily the result of more precise information being obtained during studies in previously unexplored areas. As examples, one may cite the especially important contribution from studies on the Yamal peninsula (Danilov *et al.* 1984), Chukotka (Portenko 1972; Kondratiev 1982), the Koryak Highlands (Kistchinski 1980), and Kamchatka (Lobkov 1986). In the many cases where breeding ranges have been redefined, it cannot be stated with complete certainty that actual changes have taken place, as distribution maps may previously have been based on only very inadequate information. Thus, for example, the Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus* was formerly considered a rare species with a restricted and fragmented range (Dementiev & Gladkov 1951; Kozlova 1962), this being the basis for its inclusion in the Red Data Book of the USSR (Borodin 1984). More recent information (Labutin *et al.* 1982; Volkov 1986; Artyukhov 1988) indicates a much more extensive breeding range, while counts have shown that at least 250,000 Little Whimbrels spend the winter in Australia (Lane 1987). Nevertheless, it is not clear whether this change of status is the result of a real increase in the population of the species.

For many wader species, there are indications of regional population declines or increases, expansion or contraction of the breeding range. The



Fig. 2. Breeding distribution of Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* in the Soviet Union. Solid line—after Gladkov (1951); dotted line—current range

Pratincole numbers fell sharply in the 1970s and early 1980s. Breeding success is extremely low owing to nests being trampled by cattle and preyed upon by Carrion Crows *Corvus corone* (of the race *cornix*). A census in 1984 showed the southern Ukrainian population to number slightly above 600 breeding pairs, with the majority in the east of the region (Molodan & Kabakov 1986; Voinstvenskiy 1988).

In the area north of the Caucasus, the Collared Pratincole was long known only from near the Caspian Sea. In the west of this region, the first nest was found in 1953 in the Kuban' delta. By the second half of the 1960s, Collared Pratincoles were already quite widely distributed in the area north of the Caucasus, though all the colonies were small. There were reports of nests being trampled by cattle and destroyed by farm vehicles (Kazakov *et al.* 1983).

Farther east in the breeding range of the Collared Pratincole, there has been only some redefining of the distribution limits (fig. 2), and the only report of the species expanding its range in the 1970s refers to the Chu valley in Kirgiziya (Fedyanina *et al.* 1981).

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

The general outline of the Black-winged Pratincole's breeding range has changed only slightly over the last half-century or even a longer timespan. In contrast, there have been considerable population changes in some regions of the European part of the USSR. According to a survey by G. N. Molodan (in Voinstvenskiy 1988), at the end of the last century in the Ukrainian steppes, the Black-winged Pratincole was described as a numerous breeding bird, with roving flocks numbering several thousand individuals. Then, at the beginning of the twentieth century, on the northern coast of the Sea of Azov, a marked decline was noted as a result of the rapid reduction in areas of virgin steppe. The Black-winged Pratincole has now almost vanished from the extreme southwest Ukraine, and is rare and still declining on the northern Azov coast. Reasons for the poor breeding success are the same as those described for Collared Pratincole (Voinstvenskiy 1988). A census in 1984 showed only 31 pairs of Black-winged Pratincoles breeding in the northern Black Sea/Sea of Azov coastal belt lying within the Ukraine (Chernichko *et al.* 1990).

A similar trend was observed farther north, on the Dnepr river in Dnepropetrovsk region

(Gubkin 1973). Elsewhere in the Ukraine and in steppelands on the right (east) bank of the Volga, the Black-winged Pratincole is rare, its colonies being small and unstable. In Saratov region on the left (west) bank of the Volga and in the area north of the Caucasus, many nests are destroyed during agricultural work, through flooding, or through predation by Rooks *C. frugilegus*, though the population in these areas remains relatively high (Kazakov *et al.* 1983; Mishchenko 1988). In the region adjoining the southern Urals, the Black-winged Pratincole is rare, showing a persistent tendency to decline (Ilyichev & Fomin 1988). There is no information on population trends farther east.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

A number of reports from the north of the Golden Plover's range cannot be attributed to range expansion in what are relatively little-known areas. Furthermore, it is perhaps simply a lack of information which explains the gap in the species' range between northern and southern parts of Karel'skaya ASSR close to the border with Finland (fig. 3).

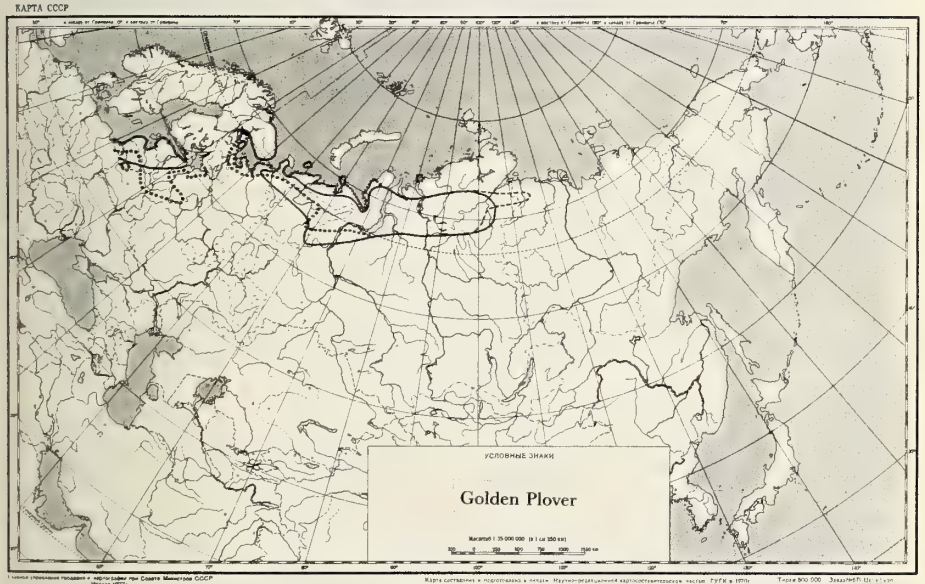


Fig. 3. Breeding distribution of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* in the Soviet Union. Solid line—after Kozlova (1961); dotted line—current range; dashed portion—approximate

The greatest changes in the distribution and population of this wader have occurred in the south. It was known to nest there in the Baltic republics (Gladkov 1951; Kozlova 1961). Despite the widely practised drainage and reclamation of raised bogs which caused a reduction in numbers or the bird's complete disappearance (e.g. Stašaitis & Margis 1984), the general trend was for an increase and an expansion of the breeding range. The Golden Plover has only recently been reported to breed in Kaliningrad region (Grishanov 1987). In Lithuania, it is rare and is included in the Red Data Book of that republic (Jankevičius *et al.* 1981), but, in the 1980s, it began to nest on raised rather than low mires at Lake Žuvintas reserve (Nedzinskas 1990). In Latvia, the Golden Plover was thought to be declining with the reduction in raised-bog habitat, but counts by ornithologists actually showed an increase from 30-40 breeding pairs in the 1950s to over 100 pairs in the 1970s (Vīksne 1983), while the most recent censuses (1980-84) indicate a population of 300-400 pairs (Priednieks *et al.* 1989). According to Kumari (1973), the Estonian population had shown no changes up to the beginning of the 1970s.

In the Leningrad region, which is well researched ornithologically, the Golden Plover was thought earlier to be nesting, but proof came only in 1966-67, and the species was later



140. Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Soviet Union, July 1985 (*Igor Byshnev*)

shown to be widespread on raised bogs in the region (Mal'chevskiy & Pukinskiy 1983). In 1975-78, nests were found on some of the extensive bogs of the Zapadnaya Dvina river basin in Vitebsk region, northern Belorussiya (Kozlov & Ivanovskiy 1980), and later, slightly farther south in the same region, on bogs in the Berezina Biosphere Reserve, in the Dnepr basin (Byshnev & Tishechkin 1990). A survey of bogs in the southwest of Novgorod region in 1989 (A. L. Mishchenko verbally) showed the Golden Plover to be common there (about 100 pairs). Recent fieldwork by Nikolaev (1990) in Kalinin (now Tver') region found the species to be widespread, mainly on extensive raised bogs south to the border with Smolensk region, and east roughly to Kalinin (Tver'). Studies of the local fauna in Berezina reserve and the Central Forest reserve (Tver' region) have been carried out at various times since the 1930s and it is clear that the Golden Plover must have arrived there not later than the beginning of the 1980s, when a new study was undertaken (Avdanin 1983; Byshnev & Tishechkin 1990).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

This species has shown a tendency to expand north, almost everywhere (fig. 4). The southern range limit has been clarified, but there is no information on changes. Alongside the gradual spread north, Lapwings have also established isolated outposts which later merged with the general nesting range. It is impossible to present the complete picture of range changes over recent decades owing to the lack of definite information.

According to data collected by Semenov (1980) in Arkhangel'sk region (northern European Russia), the Lapwing was nesting only in the extreme southwest of the region in 1930-33. A large influx into the Severnaya Dvina estuary area of Arkhangel'sk in 1939 led to the establishment of an isolated breeding outpost. An increase in the population and expansion of the range both in the south of the region and near Arkhangel'sk then allowed the two parts of the range to merge in the early 1960s (or, more likely, at the end of the 1950s). Over 15 years, Lapwing arrival dates gradually became earlier, until they were starting to appear up to a month earlier than hitherto (Belopol'skiy *et al.* 1970). In 1958-59, Lapwings were already nesting at several sites along the southern White Sea coast, and, by 1965-66, the northern limit of the breeding range had reached the Arctic Circle, on both the west (Belopol'skiy *et al.* 1970) and the east coast (Leonovich 1986). Lapwings are now colonising the Kola peninsula: a nest was found near Kandalaksha in 1970, nesting has been regular at the southern end of Lake Imandra since 1975, and a small colony was discovered near Murmansk in 1980 (Kokhanov 1983), while a probable nesting pair was recorded in the east-central Kola peninsula in 1976 (Mikhaylov & Fil'chagov 1984). On the Kanin peninsula, the northward range expansion stopped just north of the Arctic Circle (Zubtsovskiy & Ryabitsev 1976; Leonovich 1986).

Farther east, in the Pechora river basin, there was no indication that the Lapwing bred before the 1950s, though regular sightings of this species on the upper Pechora were the basis for the inclusion of this area within the breeding range by Kozlova (1961). In 1965, the Lapwing was the second most numerous wader during spring passage on the upper Pechora

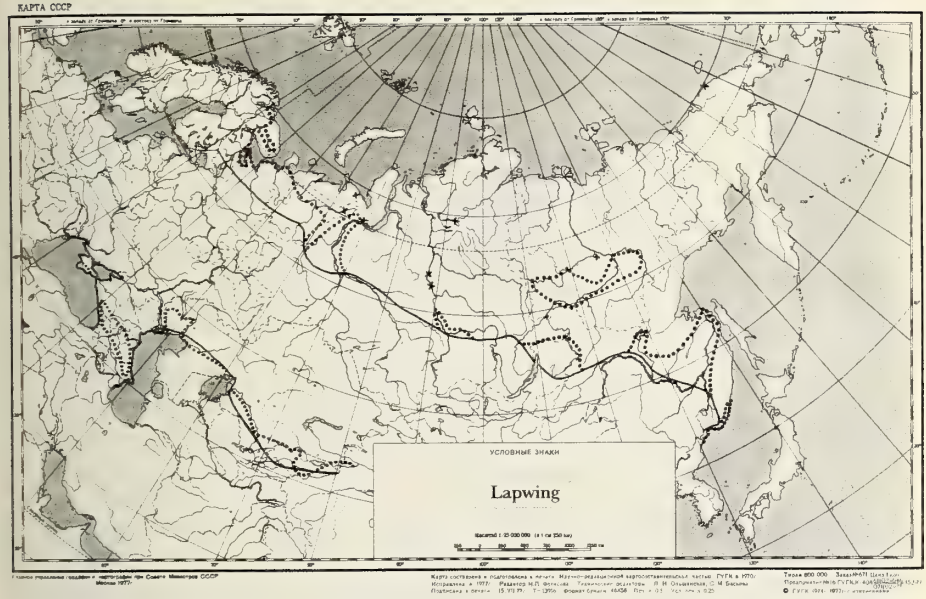


Fig. 4. Breeding distribution of Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* in the Soviet Union. Solid line—after Kozlova (1961); dotted line—range in 1980s; crosses—recent vagrant records

(Vengerov 1982). At the beginning of the 1970s, Lapwings were found to be widely spread along the Pechora and its tributaries north to latitude 65°30′N (Demetriades 1976; Estafiev 1977; Rubenstein 1983).

In the middle Ob' basin in western Siberia, the Lapwing was distributed only in the south of Tomsk region at the beginning of the present century. At latitude 59° on the Ob', it appeared in 1952-54 (Strelkov 1976), and by 1963 had spread downstream to latitude 65°30′N (Braude 1973), then crossing the Arctic Circle in the southern Yamal peninsula in 1988 (Grichik 1989). The fact that the middle and lower Yenisey valley has hardly been developed agriculturally is evidently the reason why there has been a less marked spread northward there than in other areas. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Lapwing bred on the Yenisey north to 58°N, and breeding was recorded there at latitude 59°N in 1977 (Burskiy & Vakhrushev 1983). There were no records of Lapwings on the middle Yenisey in the 1950s, then regular observations in the 1970s, and the species now breeds north to at least 60°30′N (Rogacheva 1988).

At Lake Baykal and in southern Transbaykalia, the Lapwing was rare up to the 1960s, and did not occur at all at the northern end of the lake. Then, over a period of 20 years, following a population increase in the south, the range limit shifted more than 700 km to the north. By the early 1970s, Lapwings were common, locally numerous, in inter-montane depressions of northern Baykal and northern Transbaykalia (Polushkin 1980; Tolchin 1984; Popov 1987).

In 1967, the Lapwing was proved to breed on meadows bordering the middle Vilyuy river in Yakutiya, a considerable distance from the main breeding range. Further evidence of nesting by this species at various localities on the middle Lena came during the period 1972-80 (Larionov 1984b). According to this author, colonisation of new areas in Yakutiya by the Lapwing took place from west to east, though the evidence presented is not convincing. Observations in 1979-82 showed the Lapwing to have increased sharply as a breeding species north of Yakutsk. The isolated Yakutsk breeding area perhaps merged with the main range in the 1980s, but there is no definite information from the relevant areas to support this.

In the Amur river basin and in the south of the Soviet Far East (Ussuriland), as in Transbaykalia, the Lapwing was formerly rare, but is now a common breeder virtually everywhere where there is suitable habitat. By the 1960s, the species was distributed along the Amur downstream to Komsomol'sk-na-Amure (Kistyakovskiy & Smogorzhevskiy 1973),



141. Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Soviet Union, May 1987 (*Igor Byshnev*)

and was even not rare at Lake Chukchagirskoe at latitude 52°N (Nechaev 1963). By the 1970s, Lapwings were found along all the rivers and lakes of the Lower Amur region, wherever there are water meadows (Roslyakov 1980), and it was probably during the same years that the species spread north along the middle Amur tributaries where the valleys had been developed agriculturally (Leonovich & Nikolaevskiy 1976; Il'yashenko 1986). The species is now common at about 54°N on coastal saltmarshes of the Sea of Okhotsk (V. V. Pronkevich *in litt.*). There was also some expansion north in the estuaries of small rivers which run down from the Sikhote-Alin' mountains to the Sea of Japan (Elsukov 1984).

An analysis of the Lapwing's distribution in areas into which it has expanded makes it clear that the spread almost exclusively followed the extensive water meadows, which are mostly man-made (created for stock grazing or hay-making), and only to a lesser extent other types of fields. It was only later that Lapwings colonised natural habitats, such as the White Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk saltmarshes or areas of steppe with lakes near Yakutsk. The range expansion was probably also aided by adaptive changes by the Lapwing, which allowed it to occupy new habitats. In particular, Kumari (1973) wrote about the spread of the Lapwing in Estonia by way of open raised bogs in the 1950s and 1960s; according to Dorofeev & Kozlov (1980), this process led to the formation of a special raised-bog population with specific ecological features. The complete cessation of stock-grazing, with meadows consequently becoming overgrown, overgrazing, drainage and ploughing of meadows, and cultivation using toxic chemicals are factors leading to a reduction in Lapwing numbers in many parts of its range (Utinov & Zaborskaya 1980; Golovina 1987; Nedzinskas 1990).

White-tailed Plover *Chettusia leucura*

In the mid twentieth century, the White-tailed Plover was distributed in the desert regions of Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan to the south and east of the Aral Sea (Gladkov 1951; Kozlova 1961; Dolgushin 1962; fig. 5). Surveys of the area to the north of the Aral Sea during the years 1947-60 confirmed that the species' range did not extend farther north than the lower Syr-Dar'ya river. Then, in 1966, the White-tailed Plover was recorded in the Aral Karakumy desert (northeast of the Aral Sea), and the discovery of a colony 300 km north of the Aral Sea in 1975 was a clear indication of range expansion (Khrokov *et al.* 1979). These last authors suggested that the extension of the range northwards was a result of the severe drought in southern Kazakhstan in 1974-75, a wide-ranging survey of the same areas in the very wet year of 1971 having produced no records of the species. There have been more recent breeding records in the same area, in the 1980s. White-tailed Plovers were unknown along most of the eastern seaboard of the Caspian, but the first record from the Mangyshlak peninsula dates from 1960, and was apparently linked to irrigation schemes (Zaletaev 1968); there has, however, so far been no proof of breeding.



Fig. 5. Breeding distribution of White-tailed Plover *Chettusia leucura* in the Soviet Union. Solid line—after Kozlova (1961); dotted line—current range; crosses—recent vagrant records

Range expansion has probably also taken place on the western side of the Caspian Sea: a colony was discovered on lakes in central Azerbaydzhan in 1961, and the species may well have been breeding there since 1954 (Vinogradov 1963).

On the north Caspian coast, the White-tailed Plover started nesting in the late 1970s, a probable breeding pair being shot in May 1980 and nests found in 1987 (Belik 1989).

The increasing number of reports of colonies and the colonisation of man-made lakes in the deserts of Central Asia are probably an indication of population growth within the species' original range. In Uzbekistan, for example, it is now breeding not only at natural waters, but also in cultivated areas, at filtration tanks on land being developed for agriculture, lakes taking run-off from irrigation schemes (sumps), reservoirs, and water-bodies formed by Artesian wells (Kashkarov & Ostapenko 1990).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

This species inhabits water meadows with an abundance of small bodies of water mainly in the steppe and forest-steppe zones. Population trends are to some extent contradictory. There are many reports of a sharp decline in Europe during the present century (Spangenberg & Zhuravlev 1967; Popov 1977; Ilyichev & Fomin 1979; Zinoviev 1980; Zubakin 1988). At the same time, a clear tendency to range expansion had been noted in recent decades (fig. 6). It seems likely that the wide distribution of treeless farmland, especially extensive grazing meadows in river valleys, has been the reason for the almost universal slight extension of the Marsh Sandpiper's range to the north.

The first reports of nesting in Latvia came in the years 1974-75 (Vīksne 1983; Priednieks *et al.* 1989), but the alleged discovery of a Marsh Sandpiper's nest in Leningrad region (Mal'chevskiy & Pukinskiy 1983) is based on an error in identification. Nevertheless, a nest was found on the outskirts of Leningrad (now St Petersburg) in 1986 by A. M. Sokolov (plate 142). Marsh Sandpipers were first recorded breeding near Moscow in 1966 (Spangenberg & Zhuravlev 1967), and the species was later found to be more widely spread in Moscow region (Zubakin *et al.* 1986), Tver' (Zinoviev 1980), Kirov (Litun & Makarov 1984), and Perm' region (Bolotnikov *et al.* 1989). A series of records in western Siberia (Sharonov 1963; Gyngazov & Milovidov 1977; Yaskov 1981) suggests that the northern range limit has also shifted farther north there.

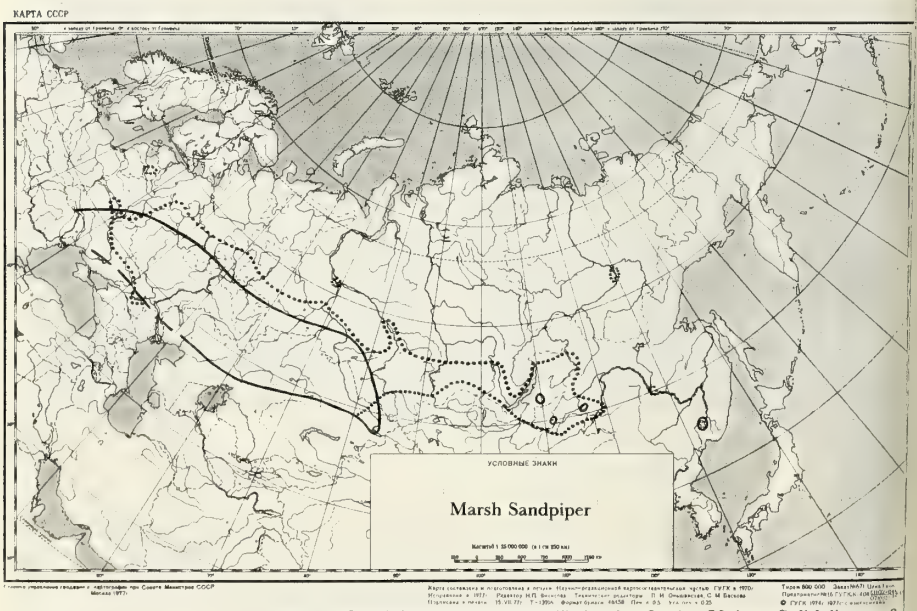


Fig. 6. Breeding distribution of Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* in the Soviet Union. Solid line—afte Kozlova (1961); dotted line—current range

A gap still existed in the Marsh Sandpiper's range between southwest Siberia and Transbaykalia at the beginning of the twentieth century (Gladkov 1951; Kozlova 1961). The southern edge of the taiga forests in the eastern part of western Siberia and Krasnoyarsk region merged with the montane taiga on the northern extensions of the Altai-Sayan mountain system, thereby dividing the forest-steppe zone, which is relatively poorly developed at this point, into two separate sections. Forest clearance and the creation of new tracts of farmland during the Soviet period have changed the natural landscape of southern Siberia beyond recognition (Rogacheva 1988). Creation of these new conditions undoubtedly helped typical steppe and forest-steppe bird species to become more widely distributed, and also allowed the two parts of the Marsh Sandpiper's range to merge. Records from a number of observers (Gyngazov & Milovidov 1977; Tolchin 1976; Kuchin 1983; Zhukov 1988) suggest that the former gap in the range has been filled.



142. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* on nest, Soviet Union, summer 1986 (*A. M. Sokolov*)

Important changes have taken place in eastern Siberia. In the view of Tolchin (1983a), the Marsh Sandpiper has considerably expanded its range in the south of eastern Siberia, penetrating into the Upper Angara and Muya depressions of Transbaykalia in the early 1970s. Intensive agricultural development along the middle Lena valley, near Yakutsk, has evidently caused considerable changes to the landscape and the resulting new habitat has proved attractive to both Lapwing and Marsh Sandpiper, allowing them to colonise the area. Previously known in Yakutiya from a single vagrant specimen (Vorobiev 1963), the Marsh Sandpiper was found breeding in the area between the Lena and Amga rivers in 1979, and had become common in some places (Larionov 1984a). In the 1980s, Marsh Sandpipers began to be recorded regularly along the Vilyuy river (a tributary of the Lena), where it is now also presumed to be nesting (Andreev 1987). A nest was found in 1985 on the middle reaches of the Amur, not far from Blagoveshchensk (S. M. Smirenskiy verbally), this indicating that the species is starting to colonise the Amur valley farther downstream than its upper reaches.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

As with other widely distributed species, population and distribution changes vary in different parts of its breeding range. In intensively farmed land in most administrative regions

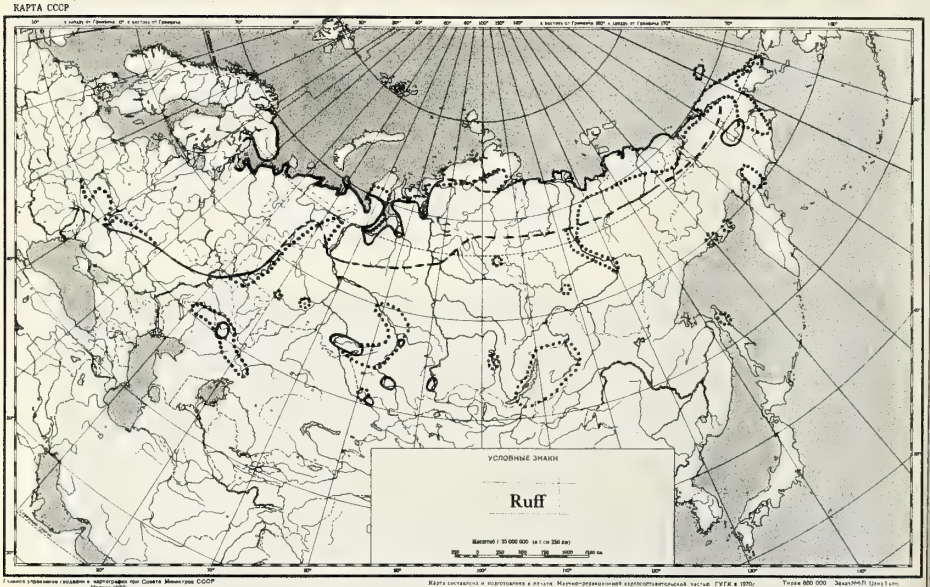


Fig. 7. Breeding distribution of Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* in the Soviet Union. Solid line—after Kozlova (1962); dotted line—current range; dashed portions—approximate

of the European part of the USSR, there has evidently been a gradual decline in the numbers of breeding Ruffs over recent decades, and the species has become more irregularly distributed owing to habitat loss through the reclamation and ploughing of water meadows. There are, for example, reports of a sharp decline in Latvia (Vīksne 1983), and the Ruff is included in the Red Data Book of Lithuania as a rare and endangered species threatened by habitat loss (reclamation of bogs for agricultural use) and hunting (Jankevičius *et al.* 1981). In Moscow region, the species is now confined to a single locality in the Moskva river valley (Zubakin *et al.* 1986), and no longer breeds in Bashkiriya (Ilyichev & Fomin 1979). On the other hand, the population was reported to have increased in Estonia in the late 1960s (Kumari 1973), and in Kirov region (Zlobin 1973), while there has been a marked extension of the range in Siberia (fig. 7).

Apart from clarification of the range limits in some areas, there has also been confirmation of breeding Ruffs from the beginning of the 1970s in many localities on Lake Baykal and in adjoining areas (Tolchin 1983b), from the 1980s near Yakutsk (Larionov 1984b) and in the middle Viluy valley (Andreev 1987). Breeding was confirmed near Magadan on the Sea of Okhotsk coast in 1972 (Leonovich 1981), in northern Sakhalin in 1976 (Nechaev 1979), and on the Kamchatkan isthmus in 1977 (Kistchinski 1980; Lobkov 1986). The Ruff was formerly only a rare visitor to the Chukotka (Chukchi) peninsula (Portenko 1972), but records became frequent in the 1970s and there were reports of breeding (not annual) along the north coast east almost as far as Uelen (Kondratiev 1982; Tomkovich & Sorokin 1983). Breeding was also recorded on Wrangel Island in 1981 (Dorogoy 1985).

The discovery of new Ruff nesting localities in Chukotka and in the Koryak Highlands (south to Kamchatka) was cautiously interpreted by Kistchinski (1980) as either the result of possible fluctuations in the eastern distribution limit of the species or as the beginning of a progressive range change. A noticeable increase in numbers of Ruffs on migration in the Crimea from the end of the 1960s (Kostin 1983), Transbaykalia (Shkatulova 1979) and the start of regular though light passage in Ussuriland (Soviet Far East)(Glushchenko 1979; Polivanova & Glushchenko 1979) bear witness to positive changes in the status of the species which have probably also led to an extension of the range.

The reason for the population growth of the Ruff has perhaps been an improved food-base

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE – TEL 0703 221597

SAME DAY DESPATCH – 14 DAY HOME TRIAL – MAJOR UK STOCKISTS

SCOPES

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle)	£219
TSN-602 Body (straight)	£199
20 x WA	£64
27 x (New) WA	£94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle)	£316
TSN 2 Body (straight)	£316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle)	£636
TSN 4 Body (straight)	£636
20 x WA	£109
25 x	£69
30 x WA	£139
40 x	£69
60 x	£119
77 x	£109
20-60x Zoom	£169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof)	£39.95
Standard Case	£24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm)	£129

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304



Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x	£379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x	£554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x	£629.95

Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31
HR Photoadaptor Variable	£33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON PACKAGE DEALS • PHONE FOR UK'S LOWEST PRICES

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£119.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50		£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	£199
8 x 20 BCA	£239
10 x 25 BC	£239
10 x 25 BCA	£255
7 x 42 BA	£649
8 x 42 BA	£649
10 x 42 BA	£649

All normally available in black or green finish.

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£249
10 x 25 B	£269
8 x 20 BGA	£315
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£529
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£699
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£689
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style)	£319

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact	£215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism	£365

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY	£269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA	£199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£649

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
10 x 25 CF III Compact	£112
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199
8 x 40 Sporting II	£119.95
10 x 50 Sporting II	£139.95
7 x 50 Sporting II	£129

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7 x 50 STD	£104

ANGENIEUX

8 x 24 F Compact	£249

SECONDHAND

BINOS

Panorama Merlin 8 x 40	£49
Swift Skipper 7 x 50 Mk II	£79
Swift Satellite 20 x 80	£199
Optolyth Alpin 10 x 50 (Mint, Case)	£229
Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44	£129
Swift Skipper 7 x 50 Mark II	£79
Swift Trilyte Mk III 10 x 40	£79
Tokina 10 x 40 Roof Prism	£79
Zeiss Jenoptem 7 x 50	£59
Tasco 8 x 40 Zip Focus	£29

SCOPES

Opticron 75 c/w 30x Eyepiece	£99

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Slik D3	£89.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95

Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen) 0703 221597/335363

Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

5% RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- ☆ Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- ☆ Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- ☆ Part exchange welcomed.
- ☆ Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- ☆ Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- ☆ 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- ☆ Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- ☆ Major credit cards accepted.

For all the Rare Bird News
phone

BIRDLINE

0891 700 222

24-hour bird news simply available to any caller

News you can trust from the team you know

The Birdline team of experts includes six of the top twelve British life-list holders, three British Birds Rarities Committee members and nine County Bird Recorders and Records Committee members

To report your sightings, phone 0263 741140

BIRD INFORMATION SERVICE, CLEY, NORFOLK, NR25 7RZ
ALL 0891 CALLS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE, 48p/MIN PEAK/STD INC VAT

(D146)



ALAUDA

Journal of the Société d'Etudes Ornithologique

- 4 issues a year, 320 pages
- scientific articles on field studies of wild birds, ethology, breeding biology, ecology, population dynamics, vocal behaviour...
- coverage is world-wide but mainly western palearctic and particularly French.
- papers have an English summary
- illustrated with photographs, both black and white and colour

Annual subscription of 260 FF

Also available : sound recordings of some of the more difficult West African birds (set : 11LP records : 850 FF
New book : Birds of French Guyana : **280 Frs**

S.E.O. - ALAUDA
MNHN - 4, av. du petit château
91800 Brunoy- FRANCE (D149)

BIMONTHLY JOURNAL ON FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

DUTCH BIRDING



- ☐ Excellent papers on identification, distribution, occurrence, movements and behaviour of Palearctic birds
- ☐ Regular contributions on Asian-Pacific birds
- ☐ Latest news on rare and interesting birds in the Netherlands and the Western Palearctic
- ☐ Well produced with numerous high quality colour photographs
- ☐ Yearly report on rare birds in the Netherlands
- ☐ In English or with extensive English summaries

For information or a free sample issue, write to:
Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands

Subscribers to Dutch Birding can claim 25% off a British Birds subscription

(D147)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT JULY 1992



A life for ornithology: Stanley Cramp (1913-1987)

K. E. L. Simmons

It is now nearly five years since the untimely death of Stanley Cramp: the obituaries have been written, the dust has settled, and the time has come, I think, for a more detailed and frank biographical profile of this remarkable man before he sinks into the anonymity of history with his story incompletely told. No journal could be more suitable for this than *British Birds*, whose highly influential Senior Editor he was for 24 years.

To many, Stanley Cramp was the leading ornithological figure of his time. In his capacity as Chief Editor of *BWP* (Cramp & Simmons 1977, 1980, 1983; Cramp 1985, 1988) and through his work in what we might call the politics of British ornithology, his was an increasingly familiar and respected name to ornithologists, birdwatchers and conservationists alike. Here we come to an anomaly: so well known to all by reputation, and to many in the flesh, he remained to the last a shadowy, strangely enigmatic figure, his origins, background, private life and interests outside ornithology being almost totally unknown to most. Even to those of us who were his colleagues in the production of *BWP*, Stanley always remained something of a mystery. Although I worked closely with him for some ten years, and shared the main responsibility with him in getting out the first three volumes, communicating with him almost daily for long periods, meeting him frequently, and coming to know him quite well, I learned little about him outside *BWP* other than that we shared an interest in

Publication of this tribute to Stanley Cramp as a special supplement to *British Birds* has been assisted by a substantial grant from The Royal Society, and by donations from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Oxford University Press.

music. Even when I wrote the citation for his BOU Medal in 1984 (see *Ibis* 126: 451-452), the personal information I squeezed out of him was minimal. Only after his death, in researching for this account of his life and work, have I managed to lift the veil a little (see also Simmons 1989).

This situation arose not through any excessive modesty on Stanley's part, but because of his almost obsessive reticence and strong tendency to arrange his busy life into discrete, seldom-overlapping spheres of activity. One major result of this compartmentalism was that the scope of his interests before he became active in London ornithological circles in the late 1940s remained largely unknown, earning him the reputation of being a rather slow starter who was handicapped by the unfortunate limitations of his northern provincial background. Nothing, in fact, could be farther from the truth. Northerner he was, and proud of it, deliberately preserving the flavour of his Mancunian accent right up to the end, but his interests—mostly intellectual and cultural—were surprisingly wide, and he had long since transcended his humble origins when he first became known to ornithologists in the capital. Clear-minded and highly organised as he was, it was inevitable that—by dint of strength of character, determination, and a driving ambition—he would succeed in nearly everything he chose to do.

Early life and influences

Stanley Cramp was born on 24th September 1913 at 28 Rae Street in the Edgeley district of Stockport, Cheshire, the eldest son of Edith Cramp (née Fell) and Thomas Edward Cramp, then a clerk in the Post Office, the family being completed some two years later by the birth of a second son, Leslie. By all reports, they were a happy clan, dominated—in the best possible sense—by Edith, who, though not well educated, was a most unusual woman. Highly intelligent, literate and remarkably prescient, 'Nana', as she was known, saw to it that her two sons were independently minded and self-sufficient, and would never feel tied to her apron strings. Stan (as he was then invariably called) took after his mother, to whom he was particularly close, the two of them contrasting markedly with the much more extrovert Ted and Les. Short, stout, and jovial, with a penchant for making excruciating puns, Ted Cramp (who died in 1950) was much better educated than his wife. He was known to his family as 'Chek', presumably after the Russian author, Chekhov. A Freemason, he resembled Stan only in his tendency to become chairman of everything with which he was associated: the local union branch, tennis club, masonic lodge, and so on.

The Cramps made sure that the boys had as good a schooling as was possible for lower-middle-class parents with a limited income in those difficult times after the Great War. Stan received his elementary education at Alexandra Park Council School in Stockport and later, after 'passing his scholarship', went to Stockport Secondary School, where he eventually obtained high marks in both the School and Higher School Certificates, the examinations for which he took when almost a year younger than the majority of his classmates. Like his brother, he also received music lessons,

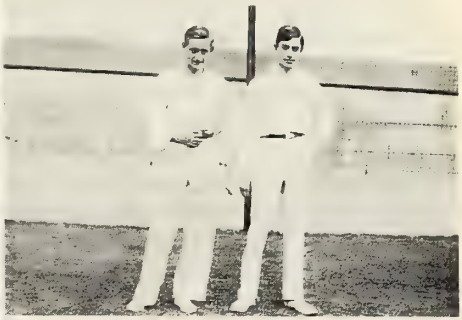




155 & 156. Above left, infant Stanley Cramp, with his mother, Edith ('Nana'); right, Stanley Cramp's father, Thomas Edward Cramp ('Chek')

157-159. Below, left, Stanley Cramp aged 3 years 4 months, with his younger brother, Leslie (1 year 7 months), February 1917; top right, Stanley Cramp (left) with Frank Rhodes, about 1930; bottom right, Stanley Cramp (centre) with RAF colleagues, Canada, 1945







and they both became accomplished amateur pianists, though of quite different tastes: while Les's inclined towards jazz and popular music (he showed a fine aptitude for improvisation, playing and vamping any given tune by ear), Stan's were wholly classical, with Beethoven and Chopin as his idols.

At secondary school, Stan was a quiet lad with few friends, his dour, uncommunicative manner and rather negative attitude to life earning him the nickname 'Silas' from his school-mates (after the sad eponymous hero of Dickens's *Silas Marner*). All changed, however, with the advent of a new boy—Frank Rhodes—with whom Stan struck up a life-long friendship when he found that, in spite of their very different characters and outlooks on life, they shared the same very off-beat sense of humour as well as a number of common interests. The friendship with Frank—who, in effect, became almost the third brother in the Cramp household—liberated the introverted and reticent Stan. Although he lacked confidence in himself—even then conscious of what were, or what he thought were, his limitations—he became the leader and organiser of many of their activities. Together they played tennis, table tennis and snooker, attended the theatre, went to concerts of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester, took up fell-walking, and (almost secretly, fearing ridicule from their peers) started birdwatching.

The two lads' interest in birds was initiated quite spontaneously by Stan when they were both aged 14; there were no outside influences, nor did they belong to any society or wish for other company. Only much later, when they were both working, did Stan approach a local expert for advice and, as was always to be his custom, he aimed high, that person being the doyen of Cheshire ornithology, A. W. Boyd, who exerted a kind and friendly, if rather brief, influence, as did Reg Wagstaffe, then Curator of Stockport Museum. Stan also read avidly, the books of E. M. Nicholson (1927, 1931) being a further and important stimulus to him, and it was about this time (1932) that he wrote to Nicholson inquiring about the possibility of jobs in ornithology.

Though both boys had matriculated and would have liked to have gone to university, that goal was far beyond the financial means of their respective families. So, while Frank took an apprenticeship in pharmacy, Stan obtained a stop-gap job as a clerk in the Borough Treasurer's department at Manchester Town Hall just after his sixteenth birthday, in September 1929. There he remained until October 1934 while working at night-school for an external degree in business studies from Manchester University, receiving his BA (Admin.) in 1934, his three years' hard graft having embraced political philosophy as well as economics and statistics. A brilliant mathematician, he had set his sights on a post in the Civil Service and, in March of the same year, took, without further study, the entrance examination for the Customs and Excise Department. This he passed with great ease, coming third out of a long list of 18-21-year-old applicants from all over the country, and he took up his duties as an Officer of Customs and Excise in the Manchester Collection area on 22nd October. With just a move to the excise division in 1936, he

remained in Manchester for the next 3½ years until applying, with his mother's encouragement, for a transfer to London, where he assumed his new post in the office of the West Collection area on 2nd April 1938, when aged 24.

Stan's years in Stockport and Manchester had been highly formative. With his brother, Les, he often spent his summer holidays walking and climbing on the Continent, from Switzerland to the Pyrénées. With Frank Rhodes, he further developed his interests in music, the visual arts, theatre (including ballet), cinema, poetry, literature (particularly the novels by contemporary American writers such as Hemingway, Dos Passos, and Faulkner), philosophy, politics, and environmental issues. Of strong left-wing bent, they belonged to an intellectual circle of Fabian socialists and formed a group—one of the first in the provinces—affiliated to the London-based Federation of Progressive Societies and Individuals (in which men such as Bertrand Russell, C. M. Joad and Julian Huxley were leading lights), organising meetings, seminars, film clubs, and amateur theatricals. Joan Littlewood was 'one of the girls' and several more members went on to higher things subsequently (in the theatre, politics, and other professions), including the writer, Eric Burgess, and Dan (later Sir Dan) Chester, who became the right-hand man of the economist William (later Lord) Beveridge.

In group discussions, Stan and Frank often joined forces and were considered by their friends to be ruthlessly formidable. Although he took the lead in matters ornithological, Stan did not actively participate in the theatricals (which were Frank's province). The two of them would often write ephemeral doggerel for their own private amusement, but, while he once provided new verses for a song in one of the group's political reviews, Stan left serious poetry to his friend. A mutual interest in philosophy, however, was something rather special to them—though a matter of reading rather than of contacts (when they actually met Joad and Russell, they found them far too grand for them)—both firmly believing that the highest attribute of humanity was scientific rationality. They discussed religion, but neither was a believer; to take refuge in religion (or patriotism), they thought, was 'a cop-out'.

Even in those days, it was difficult to fathom Stan's character fully. With deeply held ideas and prejudices, his outlook on life was essentially fatalistic and pessimistic. Although he was keen to succeed, he recognised that his was a strong ambition that needed to be kept in check. He drew limits for himself (never, for instance, learning to drive a car, being convinced that it was beyond him) and believed that he lacked creativity and imagination and needed the help of an alter ego if he were to achieve anything. He cast himself as a follower, and once quoted to Frank, seriously, but with a touch of tongue in cheek, knowing that he was too ambitious to be wholly content with the sentiments in it, this passage from T. S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*:

'No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be;/ Am an attendant lord, one that will do/ To swell a progress, start a scene or two,/ Advise the prince; no doubt, an easy tool,/

Deferential, glad to be of use,/ Politic, cautious, and meticulous;/ Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;/ At times, indeed, almost ridiculous—/ Almost, at times, the Fool.'

He also still felt awkward in company, one result being that, having realised that the ritual of offering and taking a cigarette helped others to break the ice, he himself started smoking when aged about 18 by asking Frank for a 'fag' one day while on a boat trip to Jersey. For many years, he never inhaled, but the habit was later to take such a hold on him that he became a heavy chain-smoker to the extent that he was utterly miserable without a strong cigarette between his lips—and hang anybody else who might suffer or object—earning him, in late middle age, the nickname, among the staff of one national society, of 'Old Fag Ash'.

Nor was ornithology neglected in those heady Mancunian days. In the winter of 1932/33—the family having moved by this time into a bigger house (12 Valley Road) in the village of Bramhall, a much more attractive area south of Stockport—Stan, with the help of J. H. Ward, another friend of the time, made a study of roosts of the Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* in northeast Cheshire, following up the earlier work of A. W. Boyd and A. G. Haworth, the result being his first known publication—a paper, no less—when he was 19 (Cramp 1933). Two more papers followed, both published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*, a rather unexpected place for an unknown young birder (Cramp & Ward 1934, 1936). The first of these was inspired by the earlier work of P. A. D. Hollom, to whom Stan had written for further information, and gave the results of a 1933 census of House Martins *Delichon urbica* and Swallows *Hirundo rustica* near Manchester. The second paper, a survey of the rookeries in the neighbourhood of south Manchester, was also a follow-up of earlier work elsewhere, in this case by W. B. Alexander, the Nicholson brothers and others. Thus was the pattern of Stan's ornithological interests established early: census work and distribution, such studies being a notable feature of British amateur birdwatching in those years immediately before and after the founding of the British Trust for Ornithology in 1933, largely owing to the seminal work of Max Nicholson and others at Oxford, the outstanding examples being Nicholson's own long-term national census of heronries (begun in 1928) and the national inquiry into the status of the Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* organised by T. H. Harrisson and Phil Hollom in 1931.

Tom Harrisson and Mass-Observation

Stan thought the grebe survey an incredible performance for two young men who were only slightly older contemporaries of his. Already an admirer of Tom Harrisson, Stan wrote to him in 1937 after reading his book *Savage Civilisation*, being much in sympathy with the political philosophy it endorsed. At that time, Harrisson—through the census work that he and other ornithologists (like Stan) had been doing—had come to realise that, in several important ways, we were becoming better informed about birds than we were about people. Together with Charles Madge and others of like mind, therefore, he was in the process of establishing the Mass-Observation organisation ('M-O'). This aimed to do for the ordinary British man what the BTO was then starting to do for the British

bird, namely to conduct detailed scientific study on aspects of contemporary society by using a large body of amateur observers and interviewers. Stan visited Harrisson in Bolton several times, the two of them immediately establishing a good rapport; they had a mutual interest in birds, of course, and also shared a dislike of academic sociologists. Stan was soon enrolled into the ranks of M-O, as an observer, but mainly as statistician and adviser. He was not the only ornithologist who became involved with M-O, then or later, others including James Fisher, Max Nicholson and Richard Fitter; indeed, as Fitter was to point out (in Harrisson's *Britain Revisited*, 1961), it was no accident that several of the early mass-observers were birdwatchers when one remembers the similarity between the new methods that M-O was pioneering in social anthropology and those with which Max Nicholson and others had revolutionised field-ornithology in the 1920s.

While still living in Cheshire, in 1937-38, Stan started work for a M-O book, *Politics and the Non-voter*, which Harrisson and Walter Hood were writing, his main task being the statistical analysis of the canvassing and local-election results in 'Worktown' (i.e. Bolton) and some Parliamentary by-elections elsewhere. He continued with this after settling in London, seeing much of Harrisson, who had moved there too; but, though it reached the proof stage in 1940, the book was never published. This was not, however, the end of Stan's work for M-O or, rather, for Harrisson, whom he greatly admired and believed would be one of the great men of the future. To Frank Rhodes, he described Tom as a charismatic figure whose talk was a continuous outpouring of ideas: four-fifths totally impractical, one-fifth brilliant. For his part, Harrisson thought highly of Stan, seeing his statistics as ammunition against the enemy of academia; they made a good team, Stan being just the man to pour cold water on the fantasies and encourage the brilliances. Probably because he was a voluntary helper, Stan found that his mentor—who had a reputation for being overbearing—was reasonable and easy to work with. He assisted him, therefore, with two more book projects which also came to nothing, mainly owing to the outbreak of the Second World War. He read through Harrisson's *Poverty of Freedom* (written for the Liberal Book Club), checking the facts and earning himself a dedication, and worked with Harrisson and Madge on an even bigger book on politics for which he did some research in the library of the London School of Economics. Long afterwards, in 1960, when he had already begun to make a name for himself in ornithology, Stanley (to give him the name by which he was almost invariably known later) devoted much time to a re-examination of the non-voting statistics for Harrisson's *Britain Revisited.* Although Harrisson spent most of his time abroad, the two of them continued to keep in touch until Tom's untimely death in January 1976, characteristically meeting for a gossip and a 'bender' together on Harrisson's last evening in London before his fateful return to Thailand, where he and his wife were killed in a motoring accident. (It is one of the absurdities of our science that T. H. Harrisson—who as ornithologist, anthropologist, sociologist, biologist, museum curator, conservationist, and

adventurer became one of the great polymaths of his time—is largely unknown to birdwatchers today.)

The move to London

When he came to London in April 1938, Stan found a home from home in Frank Rhodes's flat in Trinity Court on the Gray's Inn Road, Frank having come to the capital to work as a pharmacist a few years earlier. Where it suited him, Stan entered into the circle that Frank had already established, the flat becoming a meeting centre for friends old and new. The two of them picked up where they had left off, birdwatching and going to concerts and the theatre together; among a number of memorable events, the Toscanini concerts at the Queen's Hall and the acting of Olivier, Gielgud and the young Peggy Ashcroft stood out. Nor was romance absent from their lives. Stan, on a holiday in Germany just before the war, met and was attracted by a young fräulein who later visited him in London. The outbreak of hostilities, however, put an end to that, but, in late summer 1940, after Frank had married and settled elsewhere, Stan himself was wedded to Doris Strong, a girl of 21 whom he had met on the periphery of Frank's circle and later fallen in love with. They set up home together in a flat in Clare Court, Judd Street, Bloomsbury, where they lived happily for the next four years.

In the meantime, his work for Tom Harrisson finished, Stan took up serious birdwatching again. From June 1943 to June 1944, he studied the territorial behaviour and nesting of the Coot *Fulica atra* in St James's Park, publishing the results in *British Birds* three years later (Cramp 1947), his first contribution to that journal. Two events in 1944 then shattered his domestic bliss. First, in June, a temporary transfer took him to Liverpool. Next, on 15th July, he was called up for military service, his work as a civil servant having until then given him exemption (though he had 'done his bit' for the war as a member of the Home Guard, serving for a while in the rocket battery based in Hyde Park). Stan followed Frank and Les into the Royal Air Force, in which he remained until 22nd April 1946, serving at first (mainly as a clerk in equipment and accounts) in a number of UK postings. In 1945, however, with the rank of Leading Aircraftsman, he was sent to Canada for aircrew training—characteristically breaking all records by obtaining 100% in his final examination as a navigator—but the war ended before he received his 'wings' (while in Canada, he had taken the opportunity to visit the United States, where he saw the Lunts performing on the stage). After demobilisation, on returning to his London home, Stan found his domestic life unexpectedly disrupted, his wife having formed another attachment during his absence abroad. Bitter and heart-broken, he divorced her; indeed, so traumatic were Stan's experiences at this time that they were later used, Frank Rhodes believes, by their friend Eric Burgess in his novel *A Knife for Celeste* (1949).

The breakdown of his marriage was a key event in Stanley's life and he was never the same man again; because of that great hurt, it seems that he lost most of his trust in human nature and found it difficult to form close

bonds thereafter. He soon gave up his home in Clare Court and settled down, still in Bloomsbury, at Queen Court. There, in a tiny flat (no. 9 at first, later the more familiar no. 32, with its view from his desk over the central gardens of Queen Square), he remained until shortly before he died. As he became better known, he deliberately fostered the image of a confirmed bachelor; although he never married again, he was not without women friends, but they occupied a world from which his ornithological colleagues were strictly excluded. One of them—the late Jean Stewart, a well-known figure in The City whom Stanley had known for many years—proved a great help and comfort to him in those terrible last months of increasing debility and terminal illness.

Customs and Excise

When he resumed his Civil Service duties in April 1946, Stanley (as we must now call him) again worked as an Officer of Customs and Excise in the London West Collection area. It is appropriate, at this juncture, to examine his professional career in a little more detail, for it throws a useful light on his character and other achievements. That career was, on the face of it, remarkably static: he had entered the Department as an Officer, was confirmed in that grade in 1935 after his probation period, and remained an Officer (albeit in increasingly responsible posts, involving tax sums running into millions of pounds sterling) until he took early retirement in 1970 to devote himself to *BWP*, neither gaining nor seeking any significant promotions. This was quite deliberate, of course, and allowed him to pursue his real interests outside his job. Now defunct, the Officer-of-Customs-and-Excise grade was most prestigious in its day, bringing with it (when Stanley entered) a King's Commission, the powers of a superintendent of police, and a dress-uniform with cocked hat and sword. As Geoffrey Berry (his colleague of over 30 years) told me, pay and conditions provided a reasonable prospect even without further promotions, which were, in fact, very limited and called for a long commitment to private study. In this approach to his career, Stanley was following a long-established tradition, competition for entry into the service being so intense that it attracted candidates of far more impressive capabilities than were necessary to carry out the duties; a high proportion of the Officers, therefore, developed outside interests that gave greater scope for their talents and intellectual energy, many eventually becoming national figures in their fields.

Stanley's personality—then more charismatic than the public one he adopted in later years—made him a popular character among his colleagues, his enthusiasm for birds being contagious (he would at one time, for instance, take parties of them on tours of the London bomb sites in his lunch hour to see breeding Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros*). In his professional work, he was held in high esteem, recognised as a very able man in every way, expert but approachable, and with an outstanding ability for chairing informal meetings. As a committed trade-unionist, he took a strong interest in staff-association affairs and held office on a number of committees of the Customs and Excise Federation, serving as

national President from 1958 to 1968. He was an important negotiator in dealings with the Board of Customs and Excise, some of which were protracted and often acrimonious; for many years, too, he represented the Federation in its dealings with other Civil Service unions and in giving evidence to the Parker Committee for its momentous reorganising review. He also served on various Whitley Committees, including a 21-year stint as Vice-President on the London West local one. After all that experience, he told a friend years later, the conduct of ornithological business was 'child's play'. Characteristically, when offered a well-merited civic honour in recognition of his union work, he refused it.

Ascent in ornithology: the LNHS

For many people, such activity would have precluded serious pastimes; for Stanley, however, it was the tip of the iceberg. Once more a single man, he threw himself into his hobby of ornithology, determined to make his mark and reach the top. After he left the RAF, he at first centred his energies on the London Natural History Society, which he had joined in 1942, contributing a number of papers to the *London Bird Report* between 1949 and 1967, with an outlier (on the effects of the Clean Air Acts) in 1975 (see Teagle 1988). First elected to the Committee in 1957, he served as a Vice-President from 1960 until 1976 and was later made an honorary VP of the Society for life, in 1957 and 1958 also being Chairman of the Ornithological Section. His chosen field at first—for which, as a resident, in Bloomsbury, he was particularly well placed—was the distribution and status of the birds in that central built-up area of the capital known to naturalists as 'Inner London', the study of urban birds being a rather neglected field in those days. The royal parks provided a particularly important habitat and, in October 1946, he started to keep regular records of the birds of Kensington Gardens (the scene of an earlier study by the Nicholson brothers) and Regent's Park.

Later, Stanley teamed up with W. G. Teagle and they conducted winter censuses in Kensington Gardens (1948/49) and in St James's and Green Parks (1949/50), following this up with counts of birds on two stretches of the Thames (1951-53), their work later stimulating other members of the LNHS to undertake more detailed, longer-term studies of the bird-life of London's open spaces. Starting in 1949, the two of them also took part in the watches for diurnal migrants over Central London that had been initiated by Leslie Baker and John Parrinder, and they were part of the team which counted roosting Starlings in 1949-52, helping too with the ringing of those using Trafalgar Square, Stanley comparing the hair-raising happenings there to something out of one of the Marx Brothers' films (of which he was a keen fan). In the summer of 1949, Stanley himself organised a count of nesting Swifts *Apus apus*, Swallows and House Martins in the London area; with John Gooders, he also documented the return of the House Martin as a breeding bird in Inner London. In 1952, the partnership of Cramp and Teagle produced a paper (published in *British Birds*) listing the birds recorded for Inner London during 1900-50, collating the annual reports on this subject which had appeared in that journal since





160 & 161. Above, Stanley Cramp catching Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* at roost in London for ringing, about 1950 (*Eric Hosking*)

162. Below, ringing beside Heligoland trap at Spurn Bird Observatory during the big fall of Robins *Erithacus rubecula* in October 1951. Left to right, Eileen Parrinder, George Edwards, E. R. Parrinder, unidentified helper, Stanley Cramp and C. B. Ashby (*Eric Hosking*)



1929. This was supplemented by a joint article in the LNHS's book *The Birds of the London Area since 1900*, for which Stanley also wrote (with E. R. Parrinder and B. A. Richards) the article on roosts and fly-lines (1957). Stanley brought the work on the birds of Inner London up to date in the second edition of the book (1964), which he and D. I. M. Wallace had helped R. C. Homes to revise, and in a paper in *British Birds* (Cramp & Tomlins 1966). Later—in 1955 and 1956, and again in 1961— he ran the LNHS's census of the Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*.

In W. G. ('Bunny') Teagle, Stanley had found another rare friend in ornithology with whom he shared some interests outside it: good music, the arts, literature, and politics. Theirs was a happy partnership: they enjoyed one another's company and sense of fun, sometimes corresponding in humorous verse. A visit to the Isle of May together in 1949 was a succession of hilarious events, the one to France in 1951 full of incident. With his northern common sense, drive, and worldly experience, Stanley acted as sound mentor, adviser, and older-brother figure for Bunny, who much admired his sense of humour, love of the ridiculous, and dedication to ornithology. That dedication, however, was not made at the cost of other interests for, as he made plain, he had no time for those whose lives were focused solely on birds. He was scathing, for instance, in his condemnation of birdwatchers who went to Provence and had no knowledge of the artists who had worked there or of the Roman buildings, mentioning one group who could be persuaded to visit the Pont du Gard only because they might see Crag Martins *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* there. He also once delighted in introducing a reference to the Beethoven string quartets into a discussion at the exclusive 1937 Bird Club for the benefit of those fellow members whose conversation never strayed from paths ornithological. By then, his tastes in music had broadened since the Stockport days, taking in West End musicals and opera; and he spoke enthusiastically to Bunny of a performance of Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess' at the old Stoll Theatre. (He later told me that he loved the works of Puccini, but preferred to listen to them than to see them on the stage, the sight of a large Prima Donna quite spoiling the illusion for him.)

For Bunny Teagle, Stanley was a wise and sympathetic friend. The friendship for Stanley, however, with his busy and highly organised timetable and private life kept apart, was, though genuine, very much a controlled one, reducing mainly to Christmas-card contact once Bunny left London in 1963 and Stanley had become a senior figure in British ornithology. He tended to treat other friends and colleagues similarly once they had passed out of his life or ceased to be useful to him, this representing the other—practical, unsentimental, dispassionate, calculating, even ungrateful—'Goshawk' side of his nature which, if it was the only one that people encountered, gave them an incomplete picture of him. One ornithologist who saw the better, warmer side of him, both in his active LNHS days and later, was D. I. M. (Ian) Wallace—a close colleague for 20-30 years—who first came under Stanley's firm and slightly stern wing as a young birdwatcher, earning his approval and receiving encouragement and guidance: 'he sowed more seeds of

discipline into me than anyone else, enjoyably though, and made me care for common birds (counting them, etc.).' Stanley, who liked human contact more than he would admit, proved an excellent mentor, evidently feeling a strong sympathy for loners and adventurers like Ian, busy people who still found time to do more.

In 1949, Stanley initiated a 20-year study of the Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* in the squares and streets of Bloomsbury and Westminster and in the royal parks; this was to become the most important of his contributions on urban birds. In order to accommodate the work within his busy life, he used simple field techniques, mainly census work and the finding of nests. At first, however, with the help and under the guidance of Derek Goodwin, he looked also at behaviour; the results (Cramp 1957) reveal that the great surge of interest in the methods and theory of classical ethology which swept over us in post-war Britain, especially after Niko Tinbergen took up residence in Oxford, had not passed Stanley by. Moreover, although it was to be his only significant venture into this field, bird behaviour never really being his forte, the 1957 paper was also an early example of the application of the ideas of behavioural ecology, well ahead of its time. Subsequently, the study dealt more and more with the basic aspects of reproductive biology (especially breeding season and success), the eventual report (Cramp 1972, in which comparisons were made with the work on rural Woodpigeons by R. K. Murton) being the only major paper of his to be published in *The Ibis*.

Stanley's interest in the London parks and gardens continued throughout the 1950s. Between 1952 and 1956, he acted as the LCC voluntary watcher for Holland Park. Then, in 1957, he was appointed to the Official Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks, remaining a member until this body—so important to the encouragement and conservation of bird-life in the parks—was abolished (as an unnecessary 'quango') in 1979, serving for some years as its last Chairman in succession to Lord Hurcomb. During 1960-63, Stanley was also involved in the survey of the fauna and flora of the Buckingham Palace garden initiated by D. McClintock, Maxwell Knight, W. S. Bristowe, and O. W. Richards. Robert Spencer—who, with David McClintock and Bruce Campbell, used to broadcast in a BBC radio programme called 'Naturalist's Notebook'—also became involved and proposed bringing in Stanley to do the avifauna, not only because he was an acknowledged expert on urban birds, but also because he actually lived in central London and could more conveniently make the early-morning start required. Later, the two of them wrote the bird section for the series of papers on the natural history of the garden which appeared after the initial survey had ended (Cramp & Spencer 1963). Stanley continued to visit the royal garden long afterwards, sitting there quietly and noting what he saw and heard, eventually earning for himself the popular but wholly unofficial title of 'The Queen's Birdwatcher': 'I always ring up first', he told a reporter in 1979, 'to let them know I am coming, and usually go before dawn so I won't get in the way of the Queen if she is walking in the garden.'

The BTO and the RSPB

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Stanley became increasingly active in the affairs of three national ornithological bodies: the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the journal *British Birds*. He had joined the BTO in 1946, been a local organiser for the Mute Swan censuses in the years already mentioned, and was Regional Representative for the London area from 1958 to 1964. But it was his paper analysing the nest-records of the Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Cramp 1955) which revealed his fuller capability, and two years later he was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the BTO, becoming Chairman of the Nest Records and Roosting Sites sub-committee in 1958. Membership of Council itself followed later the same year and in 1959 he took over as Chairman of the SAC for three years (it was at this time that I first met him when I served briefly on the Committee before departing for two years on Ascension Island). In 1963, he rejoined Council as a Vice-President, then, after a brief gap, was elected to Council for a second time in 1970. Surprisingly, however, he never became President, but perhaps the offer, if it was ever made, came too late, for by then he was too engrossed in *BWP* to give the job the attention it needed.

The BTO was not neglected in the 1970s, however, and Stanley continued to serve on three of its committees: SAC again, Ringing and Migration, and Populations and Surveys (of which he was Chairman for a while). He also represented the Trust for a number of years on the Advisory Council of the Edward Grey Institute. Characteristically, once his last term on Council ended in 1974, he quietly slipped out of sight, no longer even attending the Annual Conference at Swanwick—at which he had been a fixture for so many years ('I've earned a rest from all that', he told me)—but he did return to deliver the eleventh Witherby Lecture (on ornithology and bird-conservation) in 1979. He had served the BTO well, not least as a member of the ad hoc research committee which formulated the new policies that led to the move to Tring (in 1963) and the appointment of the Trust's first Director of Research (D. W. Snow) in 1964. Further, in a remarkable solo effort, he had produced a policy document for the future development of the Trust which was so advanced that it is still being implemented today (see Hickling 1983).

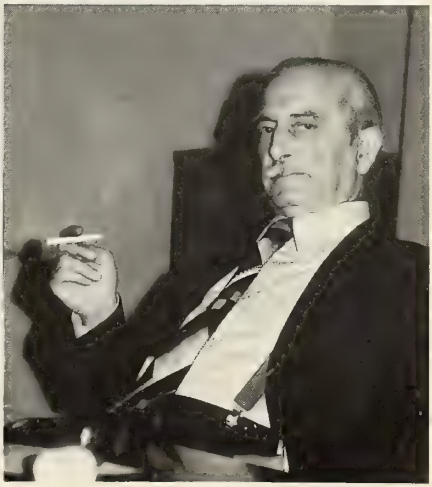
Stanley was also a long-standing member (and, before long, a Life Fellow) of the RSPB, though it was not until 1960 that he was elected to Council, becoming its Chairman for five years from 1966; he was voted

163-166. Facing page, top, group at Scottish Ornithologists' Club conference at Dunblane in October 1965, left to right, Malcolm Ogilvie, Dr Adam Watson, Dr Ian Pennie, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards and Stanley Cramp (*Jas. MacGeoch*); centre, HRH the Prince of Wales, at RSPB film show in Cardiff in 1972, meeting Stanley Cramp, Peter Conder, Anthony Clay and Trevor Gunton (*South Wales Evening Post*); bottom left, Stanley Cramp cutting *British Birds*' seventy-fifth-birthday cake in June 1982, left to right in background, Gwen Bonham, Dr Richard Chandler, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Dr Raymond O'Connor and Keith Allsopp; bottom right, Stanley Cramp in typical pose in his '*BWP*' office









back onto Council in 1972 and served on it until 1976: altogether an exceptional record. At the RSPB, Stanley formed a notable partnership with P. J. Conder, first when they were both members of the BTO/RSPB Joint Committee on Toxic Chemicals. Increasingly during the 1950s, there had been a marked concern—shared by these and other bodies (including the Nature Conservancy and the Game Research Association)—about the disastrous effects that certain agricultural chemicals were having on bird-life and the natural environment. In 1959, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the BTO (of which Stanley was then Chairman) had established a small working party (the Toxic Chemicals Group) under W. D. Campbell to look into the matter and produce a report based on a study of the literature (Campbell 1962). At the RSPB, Peter Conder (then Assistant Secretary and jack-of-all-trades there) had also started to investigate the problem and, in August 1960, Stanley (who had been a member of the original BTO sub-committee, now disbanded) became Chairman of the Joint Committee, with Conder as Secretary.

In a telling series of six reports (published by the RSPB and co-authored by Cramp, Conder, John Ash and P. J. S. Olney in various combinations but always with Stanley as first author), this team spearheaded the successful campaign that was waged throughout the 1960s against the continued use of persistent chemicals (pesticides, seed-dressings and the like) in agriculture. Stanley, who edited and sharpened up the RSPB-written reports, proved to be an excellent chairman—'the very best I have ever known' (Peter Conder)—and a highly proficient leader at meetings with the agro-chemical industry, the government ministry (MAFF), and other bodies, his shrewdness, common sense, ability to keep everybody to the point, and toughness in argument being invaluable. Partly because of his work on the Joint Committee, Stanley (having already received the Tucker Medal of the BTO in 1963) was awarded the Gold Medal of the RSPB in 1966. His sterling work for the Society did not end there, however, for he served as well at one time or the other (often as Chairman) on the Finance and General Purposes, the Reserves, and the Research Committees. In all, he devoted much time and thought to the business of the RSPB, bringing to it (in the words of the medal citation) 'great penetration, knowledge of men and affairs, deftness in procedure, and a "common sense" of quite uncommon excellence.' After his last stint on Council ended in 1976, he finally bowed out and was made an Honorary Fellow the next year. In October 1988, the year after he died, a plaque was unveiled in the RSPB hide at Copperas Bay, Essex, to commemorate his long involvement with the Society.

With Stanley's determined support and help, Peter Conder (Director during 1963-75) had started to modernise the RSPB by re-organising it, employing professional specialists, improving the staff's conditions of pay and service, and greatly enlarging the membership. With the co-operation of its increasingly diverse and experienced staff—and of a new-style Council versed in other areas of expertise (finance, advertising, personnel management, pensions, computers, etc.)—they had given the fortunes of

the Society a huge boost. With their going, an important era in its history had ended and the foundations for its continuing expansion firmly laid.

Other work in conservation

Stanley was also active on other national conservation bodies. For the Nature Conservancy Council, he served as a member of the Advisory Committee for England and later as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Birds (1982-85), having previously been a member of the Home Office Committee on the Protection of Birds Act. At one time or another, he belonged also to the Duke of Edinburgh's Committee that organised the British contribution to European Conservation Year 1970 and later to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England; to the Committee for Environmental Conservation; to the Council for Nature, as the RSPB's representative; and to the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, as the BOU representative for many years and as Honorary Treasurer during 1971-81.

To all these institutions, Stanley brought all his experience and common sense. At the CPRE from 1970 to 1976, for instance, he helped the then Director (Christopher Hall) to establish a sensible constitution giving its branches responsibilities as well as powers in the running of the organisation, regularly exhorting the Executive Committee to 'get out of the Dark Ages and move into the Twentieth Century'. It was mainly as a result of these reforms, and later ones in the 1980s, that the CPRE became the dynamic and successful body it is today. For his services to bird conservation, Stanley was created an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1975. This time he accepted the honour, his mother accompanying him to Buckingham Palace for the investiture, coming up to town especially for the great event (since the death of her husband, she had lived with Les and his wife Dorothy, who described her to me as 'a lovely person').

Over the years, Stanley took every opportunity to press home the conservation point of view by writing articles in a variety of outlets (including *British Birds, Bird Notes, Birds, BTO News, New Scientist,* and *Nature*), also contributing the entry on 'Toxic Chemicals' to *The New Dictionary of Birds* (1964). His most distinguished essay in this field, however, was the booklet on bird conservation in Europe (Cramp 1977) published as a report of the Nature Conservancy Council for the Environment and Consumer Protection Service of the Commission of the European Communities (EEC). In this, the result of an assignment from the EEC, Stanley gave a detailed historical perspective of the vicissitudes which have faced the European avifauna over the past hundred years and then put forward the conservation measures that he thought should be adopted, thus aiding the EEC to develop a sound policy of bird protection based on biological principles.

'British Birds'

We now come to *BB* itself, the third of our core national ornithological institutions with which Stanley was closely associated. Ever since its

founding by the ornithologist and publisher H. F. Witherby in 1907, the journal has exerted a great influence in charting and directing the course of general ornithological activity in twentieth-century Britain. It nearly came to grief, however, with the unexpectedly early death (at the end of 1950) of B. W. Tucker, Witherby's close associate and chosen successor, but was rescued by the dedication and efforts of a series of Senior Editors (E. M. Nicholson, P. A. D. Hollom, and Stanley Cramp) and of an outstanding full-time Executive Editor (I. J. Ferguson-Lees).

Stanley had first joined the editorial team as a member of the Notes Panel in the mid-1950s, ascending to the Editorial Board in 1960 and becoming Senior Editor in 1963, continuing to hold the reins until his death in 1987, making him the longest-serving editor after Witherby himself (1907-43). In 1973, he saw *BB* through another crisis: the transfer to a new publisher (Macmillan) after the firm of Witherby had decided it could no longer afford to support the journal, and the departure of James Ferguson-Lees to the RSPB after 21 years as Executive Editor. With the appointment of J. T. R. Sharrock as full-time Managing Editor in 1976, Stanley (now heavily involved in *BWP*) was happy to relax the strong, almost dictatorial grip he had exerted over *BB* for so long, now assuming a mainly advisory, supporting role, his wise counsel always available. In 1980, when Macmillan decided to sell *BB* and gave its Managing Editor first option to purchase, Stanley played an important part in the financial negotiations which led to the journal being owned, for the benefit of ornithology rather than private profit, by its own Editorial Board, thus putting the new company (British Birds Ltd) on the same footing as the BTO and certain other societies. Subsequently, Stanley (though still nominally Senior Editor) acted mainly as Chairman both of the company and of the board of editors at meetings held four or five times a year, performing his duties in a characteristically efficient manner, firmly, swiftly, and without 'waffle', soon cutting short any member who went adrift from the logical argument or entered unfruitful avenues of discussion. Some years before his death, it had been agreed by all concerned that his position with *BB* was unique, so, as planned, the title of 'Senior Editor' died with him.

Before Stanley became an editor of *BB*, his only contribution, apart from his paper on the Coot (1947) and the joint paper on the birds of Inner London (1952), had been a typically terse note on an incident of courtship-feeding by Jackdaws *Corvus monedula* (1950). The year 1960, however, saw the publication in the journal of an impressive three-part report on the inquiry organised by A. Pettet and J. T. R. Sharrock into the unprecedented irruption of tits (mainly *Parus*) and a few other birds into England and northwestern Europe during the autumn of 1957. Stanley (who had also compiled his own report for the London area in the *London Bird Report* the same year) played a key part in the writing-up and analysis of the data and emerged as first author of the larger paper. In 1963, he followed this up with another (solo) paper in *BB* on the later movements of tits in Britain, Ireland and Europe, the same year also seeing his paper there on toxic chemicals and birds-of-prey. Except in joint authorship, he

was to contribute only one other major paper subsequently to the journal: a report on the nesting of gulls on buildings (1971). He also wrote some texts to accompany the special photographic studies of individual species and prepared the occasional obituary, the last, and his own last published work, being that for W. H. Thorpe (a good friend of *BWP*). Otherwise, he confined himself chiefly to reviewing books—over 50 between 1961 and 1986—a task he enjoyed and did with flair.

Mention of books gives me an excuse to relate that, although he was an avid reader (of good literature, biography, history, and political commentary as well as of ornithological and other scientific and conservation-orientated texts, mostly obtained from the public library), his own collection was strictly limited by the space it occupied within the glass-fronted cases which lined the study-lounge of his small, neatly kept flat. If he bought a new book, he said, an old one had to go: no easy decision, though he was released from this dilemma to some extent by being able to keep books in his *BWP* office from 1970 (after which his rate of reviewing bird books also increased).

Stanley's joint papers in *BB* on the birds of Inner London and the tit irruption have already been mentioned. In 1963, he also published a paper there (again as senior author) with I. J. Ferguson-Lees on the status and conservation of the birds of the Danube Delta, this important survey being based on their 17-day visit (ten in the company of Phil Hollom) to Romania in May 1961. In James Ferguson-Lees, the expert ornithologist, Stanley had found another of his rare close friends and an invaluable colleague; associates also in the affairs of the BTO and RSPB, and in each other's personal confidence far more than anyone else's, they worked together in harmony for many years on *BB*, complementing one another in just the sort of partnership that Stanley needed—James, the perfect alter ego, possessing that depth of ornithological knowledge, the field experience, and flair in constructive and painstaking editing that Stanley, for all his other gifts, somehow seemed to lack.

The Seabird Group

Stanley's gull paper of 1971 in *BB* was an offshoot of the 1969-70 survey 'Operation Seafarer' set up by the Seabird Group, on the instigation of W. R. P. Bourne and James Fisher, to make a census of all the breeding seabirds of Britain and Ireland; organised by the Executive Committee (first Chairman: G. M. Dunnett) and a special Census Committee (first Chairman: James Fisher), it had David Saunders as full-time organiser of the fieldwork (and main compiler of the results). Stanley played no part either in the early development of the Seabird Group (founded 1965) or the formation of Operation Seafarer, but, after he had joined the group (in 1967), his offer to help with the running of the census was gratefully received. When George Dunnett departed on a sabbatical year in New Zealand, Stanley's high standing in British ornithology made him an appropriate choice as Chairman of the Executive Committee in his place, and he then took over also as Chairman of the Census Committee itself after the tragic death of James Fisher in 1969. Subsequently, having by

now set up his *BWP* office in London, he was asked to handle the publication of the book which was to give the results of the census. Stanley, of course, proved to be an excellent Chairman, always available and co-operative, and it was largely through his efforts—and quick, clear decisions—that the book appeared so promptly. Rather surprisingly, however, as most of the writing and editing had been done by others, he emerged as senior author (Cramp, Bourne & Saunders 1974).

The BOU and other societies

Though he joined the British Ornithologists' Union in 1951, Stanley played little part in its affairs until 1965, when he became a member of Council for three years. There was then another lull until 1974, when he was elected a Vice-President, after which he succeeded Sir Hugh Elliott as President in 1979. That term of office ended in 1983, and he was awarded the Union Medal in 1984. He had represented the BOU on the ICBP (British Section), as we have seen, and was also a member of the advisory committee set up in 1979 to assist the editors of the Union-sponsored *A Dictionary of Birds* (which finally appeared in 1985). Of Stanley's presidency, there is little to say, for it was not a time of innovation or expansion at the BOU like that which the BTO and RSPB had seen when he served so dynamically on their Councils. As chairman of the BOU Council, he was splendidly efficient as usual, clear-thinking and fair, and rattled through its business in record time—in part, it was suspected, because he was not allowed to smoke in the Council Room of the London Zoological Society where the meetings were then held—though there was no question of discussion ever being prevented or unnecessarily cut short.

Stanley, it would seem, took the BOU presidency in his stride, accepting it largely as an honour rightly due to him, but the term had come too late in his busy life for him to do it full justice. Moreover, during the later part of it, he had started to show signs of the failing health that was to lead eventually to his death, being already a sick man when he attended the BOU Annual Conference at Southampton in March 1983, though indignant at the suggestion that anything was wrong with him.

His BOU presidency over, Stanley undertook no further senior duties in any ornithological body, saving what remained of his energies mostly for *BWP*. I have not attempted to trace his membership of other societies, but he must have belonged to a number. A Scientific Fellow of the Zoological Society of London for many years, he received its Stamford Raffles Medal in 1978 on the recommendation of V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Travels

Stanley did belong to OSME (the Ornithological Society of the Middle East), of which he was Vice-President from its inception in 1978, having made several field-trips to the area over the years. He went, for example, to Azraq, Jordan, with Dr J. S. Ash and others in 1966; to the Kufra oasis, Libya, in 1968 with Peter Conder (Cramp & Conder 1970); to southern Iran in 1969 with Conder and others, and to Turkey in 1970 with Richard Porter (Cramp 1971a); to Turkey in 1973 ('atlassing') and 1975, and to

Baluchistan in 1972, again with Porter; to Tunisia in 1977 with Geoffrey Beven, M. D. England, M. G. Wilson and others; and to Israel in 1980 and Italy in 1981. Journeys farther afield were few, but he got to The Gambia in 1978 and Belize in 1982. In Europe, as well as his visit to Romania in 1961, he paid a highly influential visit with Bruce Campbell to Poland in 1959 (see Campbell 1979; Dyrcz 1988), the first by any British ornithologists to an east European country since the war, and to the Coto Doñana, Spain, in 1965. Nearer home, he travelled to Ireland and widely in Britain, especially around the RSPB reserves. Until her death in 1982, a few months before her 100th birthday, Stanley would, after each trip, send home to his mother photographs taken of him (some at his special request), ever the loving and dutiful son.

Though some of the foreign expeditions produced scientific results (as noted), or provided material for *BWP*, most of Stanley's field-trips were essentially recreational, giving him a much-needed break from the demands of his busy life and a chance to birdwatch and add new species to his life-list. In Britain, with the need to preserve his dignity as a senior ornithological figure, he could appear reserved or even bossy in the field; but abroad, away from it all with his friends, he would relax, let his hair down, and enjoy himself, by all accounts being excellent company, fortified by as huge a supply of duty-free cigarettes as could be mustered (by all members of the party, non-smokers included) and by the local beverages. There are a number of stories of hilarious, even scurrilous goings-on, but these, I fear, lie outside the scope of this profile, wide-ranging as it is. Three other things emerge, however: Stanley's calm and phlegmatic character, even under the most trying or alarming conditions; his authority in organising himself and others; and his practicality and kindness in adversity (here, in particular, I am thinking of the way he came to the rescue when his friend Derrick England was taken seriously ill in Tunisia, nursing him and getting him safely back home). Rather surprising, especially in view of his keenness and the obvious enjoyment he obtained from birding, was his evident lack of skill in identification, thus showing that even distinguished ornithologists do not necessarily make good field men.

'BWP'

We now come, finally, to Stanley's greatest achievement: *BWP*. Plans for a comprehensive modern replacement for *The Handbook of British Birds* (Witherby 1938-41) had been under consideration by the Editors of *British Birds* since the 1950s and these gathered pace after 1962. The Chief Editor designate was E. M. Nicholson, who hoped to see the task through as a retirement job (just as Witherby himself had done for *The Handbook*), thus maintaining the link with that great work, with which Nicholson had been closely associated. It was he who now set up the non-profit company (West Palaearctic Birds Ltd), whose Board of Directors would oversee the new project, and found just the sort of publisher that it needed (Oxford University Press). Before long, however, the scientific necessity to cover a much wider faunal area than Britain and Ireland had been realised, and

the scope of the new handbook was expanded to embrace the whole of the western Palearctic. In view of this, and because of his increasingly heavy involvement in environmental matters, Max Nicholson now decided that he must take a back seat and be succeeded (both as Chairman of the WPB Ltd Board and as Chief Editor) by someone able to give the project his full time over a number of years. More and more, and rather unexpectedly, the finger began to point at Stanley (who had by now taken up his turn of duty as Senior Editor of *BB*) as the one person with the qualifications, strength of character, and motivation to see the great task through: 'I now felt quite happy', Max Nicholson told me, 'to step down in his favour, in view of the judgment, integrity and dedication to the highest ornithological standards which he had demonstrated.'

By 1966, plans for *BWP* had advanced far enough for them to be announced and, in July, just before they were published in *BB*, the chance was taken to air and discuss them at a special meeting at the XIV International Ornithological Congress, at Oxford (for which Stanley was acting as Treasurer). With the promise of considerable international help with the project, Stanley and his *BB*/WPB colleagues went ahead to find the necessary (and substantial) finance needed to float and sustain it until *BWP* was self-sufficient through its own royalties. Unforeseen difficulties in raising enough money to make a start, however, delayed it for a further three years. Then, with the aid of a substantial advance from OUP and a grant from the Pilgrim Trust and a loan from the BOU (both obtained through the good offices of Sir Landsborough Thomson, another invaluable friend of the project), Stanley felt able to go ahead. On 1st February 1970, ten days before his early retirement from Customs and Excise officially commenced, Stanley started working full time as Chief Editor of *BWP*, his salary paid by WPB Ltd (not OUP).

At first, he worked from his flat—no. 32 Queen Court, in fact, remaining the official address of *BWP* until his last illness—but was soon established, with his own secretary, in the fully equipped WPB Ltd office at 71 Gray's Inn Road, only a short walking distance away from his home. During his years with Customs and Excise, he had enjoyed much freedom and he could then usually be contacted at his office in Harwood Place (and later Berwick Street) only before ten in the morning, after which he would disappear out of official ken upon his rounds; but now he could give all his time to ornithology for the first time in his life. There was, however, still a huge amount to do before the actual work on the first volume began and Stanley—in his element with the challenge of it all—began to tackle the task with great determination and efficiency. To help him, he had the half-time assistance (from May 1970) of his *BB* lieutenant James Ferguson-Lees as co-editor, his salary also paid by WPB Ltd; together they were a formidable partnership, tried and tested.

By this time, the full *BWP* team consisted of nine people making up the Editorial Board: five Directors of the WPB Ltd Board—the four *BB* editors (Cramp, Ferguson-Lees, Hollom, and Nicholson) and Robert Spencer (then Deputy Director of the BTO)—plus K. H. Voous and Jan Wattel (of the Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoologie, University of Amsterdam),

Robert Gillmor (Art Editor), P. J. S. Olney (Curator of Birds, Zoological Society of London), and me. In a series of formal meetings, written exchanges, and consultations during 1970, the scope of the book, the area it was to cover, and its organisation and format were discussed and the allocation of the various sections amongst the editors decided. As well as overseeing the whole thing, Stanley's own immediate task was to help Ferguson-Lees (and Hollom) compile the species list for the first volume. Further, being himself responsible for what were to become the Distribution and Population sections, he had to start on the long and tedious task of setting up a network of foreign consultants (eventually 43 in all) to provide the basic data for his texts and for the ambitious maps he was planning (these latter also involving detailed discussions with the cartographical department of OUP). The exact eastern boundary of the area was problematical, so the views of Russian ornithologists were sought; indeed efforts were made to recruit specialists from the whole of Europe to serve as advisory or associate editors and consultants for all aspects of the book. In September, the XV IOC, held in the Netherlands, presented another opportunity for discussion and recruitment. For this, Stanley prepared a document for circulation outlining the nature and scope of *BWP*; there were to be seven volumes, the first to appear in the autumn of 1974 and the rest at yearly intervals thereafter. The whole project, then, was to be completed by the end of 1980, thus taking some 11 years in all, a daunting prospect.

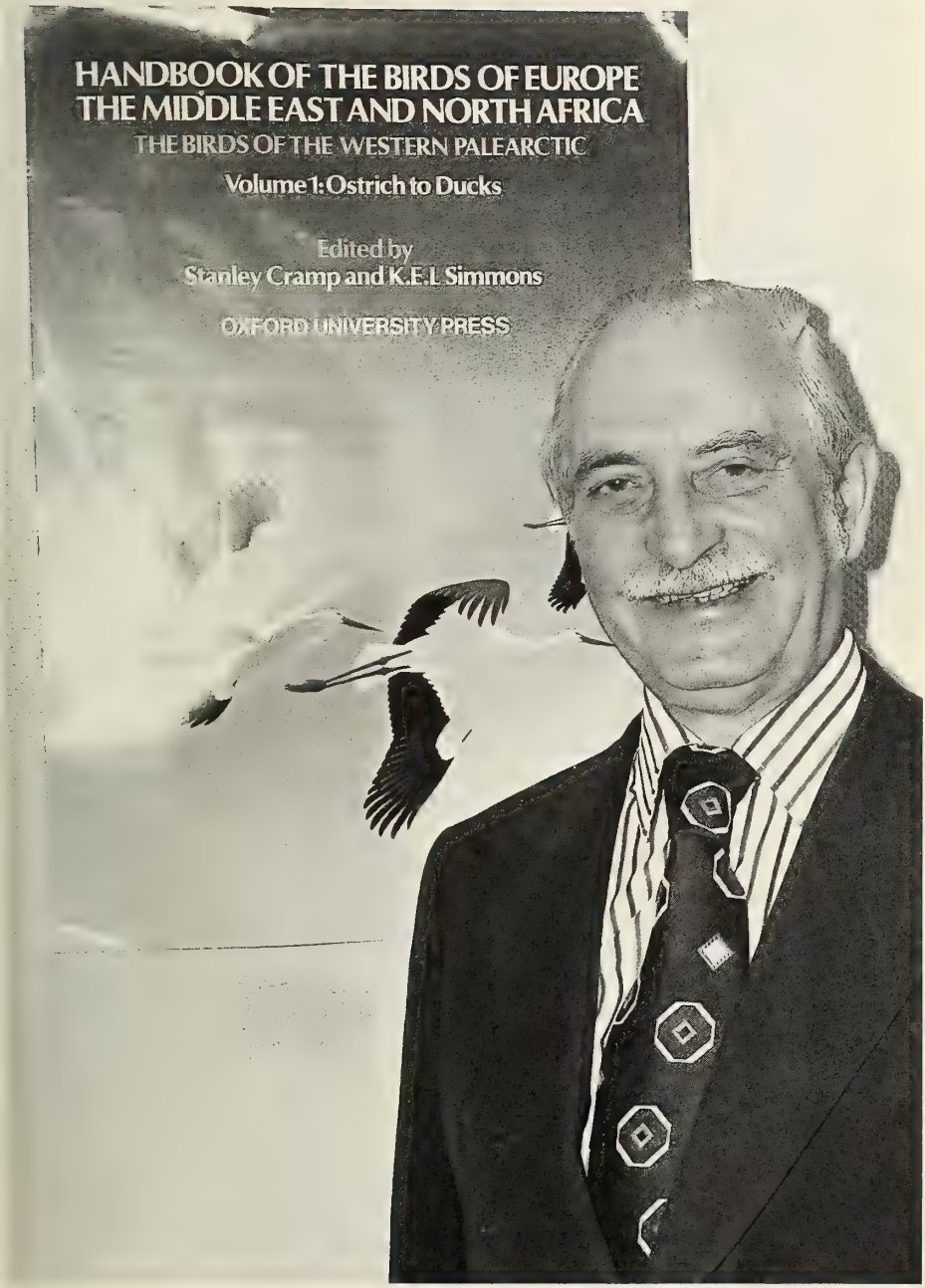
The years that followed, up to the publication of volume I, were not easy for any of us, with a series of crises, delays, and early disappointments, not least the lack of support (Cambridge and W. H. Thorpe apart) from the professional centres of ornithology in Britain, though this was more than made up for in later years. There was a strong feeling, initially, that *BWP* was unnecessarily duplicating the work started by the German *Handbuch der Vögel Mitteleuropas*, three volumes of which had already appeared by the time our work started; there were doubts, too, about Stanley's ability (as an amateur) to oversee the scientific side of the project, a translation of the *Handbuch* being seen as a preferable solution by some leading ornithologists who might otherwise have thrown their weight behind *BWP*. Stanley, indeed, was always sensitive about his lack of a higher scientific degree: being addressed as 'Dr Cramp' by his foreign correspondents embarrassed him and he hinted to me that the award of an honorary doctorate from some British university would be very acceptable (alas, the offer never came).

There were also early editorial changes. Two new section editors joined the team: Robert Hudson (for Robert Spencer) and M. A. Ogilvie; like most of the rest, they worked unpaid and in their own time. A key loss came with the departure of James Ferguson-Lees for the RSPB, depriving Stanley of his chosen co-editor and right-hand man. I now replaced James in March 1973—three-quarter time at first, full time from 1975—having first been associated with the project as a consultant (on behaviour) since 1966 and as a section editor since late in 1969. Work on volume I continued slowly—much too slowly for Stanley's liking—and it finally

appeared in 1977, three years late. There were many reasons for the delay, not least the great increase (as the book evolved) in the scope and complexity of most of the sectional treatments, which now far outstripped the original conception. This threw great pressure on the available space (then watched much more rigorously than in later volumes) and caused many editorial problems, and even more serious financial ones. With the huge expense of the London office, money was always tight and Stanley was faced—then and later (when D. J. Brooks was engaged as his assistant and a long-overdue editorial team set up at Oxford)—with the urgent need to find more and more of it so as to keep the project alive, a chronic and ever-worrying chore which engaged a great deal of his time, ingenuity, advocacy and energy. Matters came to a crisis early in 1975, when the money nearly ran out and OUP threatened to withdraw because of delays on the agreed timetable; going without salary for several weeks, Stanley and I weathered the storm, having made a private pact together to complete the work on the vital first volume, come what may.

It is not the place here to go into the detail of the subsequent history of *BWP*. Stanley and I worked together well, complementing each other, and remained on friendly terms throughout; although there were rough patches and disagreements, and he went his own way in the end, when poor health reduced my own participation, he was always pleasant and courteous to me—if at times exasperatingly stubborn and unapologetic, and always overdemanding—and I retained a soft spot for him until the end. When I nagged him about his smoking, he took it well, explaining that his late father (a heavy smoker also) had given up cigarettes to the detriment of his mental health, the cure being worse than the ill. Two more volumes appeared under our joint names (in 1980 and 1983) and a further two under Stanley's alone (in 1985 and 1988), the last posthumously.

In view of his record elsewhere, it must be admitted that Stanley was far from the perfect boss; so obsessive were his efforts to keep the project afloat that the welfare of the staff and others working for it had a much lower priority (it was a considerable relief to me when I received a special five-year grant from the Science Research Council which gave me a large measure of independence from him). Though he kept his section editors continually on their toes, exhorting them to better efforts and keeping meticulous records of progress, most of them received little help from him once the ground-rules had been established. It seems that, not having to undertake any substantial literature research or analyses himself, Stanley never fully realised just how difficult the task was: many of the problems about timing arising from his editors' inability to meet the deadlines that he had agreed independently for quite other reasons (mainly financial). Organisation was his métier, even if it seemed at times almost an end in itself. Discussions with him could have an air of unreality about them: matters agreed, deadlines established, end of problem. There is a myth that he planned and wrote *BWP* practically single-handed—an omnipotent spider in the centre of a web, spinning gold from flax—but that harms his memory as much as any underwriting of his true role would do, and pays scant justice to his hard-working colleagues (the unsung heroes of *BWP*):



167. Stanley Cramp, sporting typically flamboyant tie, beside poster featuring his life's greatest achievement, *'BWP'* (*Topix*)

Duncan Brooks and Ruth Wootton (Stanley's secretary from the start); the Behaviour Team at the EGI, Oxford (E. K. Dunn, M. G. Wilson, and Dorothy J. Vincent); the long-serving Voice Team (Joan Hall-Craggs and P. J. Sellar); and the other editors, past and present (N. J. Collar, C. S. Roselaar, D. W. Snow and D. I. M. Wallace as well as those already mentioned). In fact, Stanley's input to the text was small—that for his own sections being deliberately kept to a minimum, pressure to make them more comprehensive being strongly resisted—his main involvement being with the excellent maps that are such a notable feature of *BWP*. As for his editing, it may perhaps tactfully be said that he worked on the broad canvas and that the detailed, constructive work fell to others.

Stanley, then, was no paragon; but, as has been said of a famous general, nice people do not win wars. *BWP* had been the great challenge of his life and he rose to it magnificently. Without his perseverance and unremitting efforts, it would have floundered on a number of occasions: it needed the strong, even ruthless hand of a level-headed, down-to-earth realist to hold it together, and this is just what Stanley provided. Indeed, looking back at events—and over the huge files containing his letters, directives, and other communications—I am lost in admiration and can think of no-one else who could have organised it better. His expertise and energy were remarkable, especially during the early years when the book had to be evolved from scratch. He presided firmly but benevolently over Editorial Board meetings, taking notes and issuing his own concise, lucid, and neatly laid-out minutes. While leaving it to the other editors to plan, research, and draft their own sections, he supervised everything, critically reading over all the texts as they came in and keeping everybody on the rails. There was never any doubt who was in charge; he maintained a strict centralisation, discouraging editors from communicating with each other directly and insisting that they channelled all material through him. Above all, he constantly urged them to meet the agreed deadlines which were so important to the financial survival of the project. He was a hard taskmaster, earning himself appropriate nicknames from some editors: 'Chairman Mao', 'The Ayatollah', and even 'God'. Though most of the text initiatives came from others, he would give them his full support once (and if) persuaded: this he did, against much opposition, in the case of the greatly expanded behaviour sections that I introduced, even though they remained the main target of his cuts thereafter. Only in the last years of decline did Stanley relax his grip, and by then most of the work had long been done by others anyway.

Final years

With Stanley already a sick man in the spring of 1983, there was growing concern for his health, especially towards the end of 1984, with rumours of a mild stroke and smoking-induced emphysema circulating at the BTO conference at Swanwick. When I wrote to him in January 1985, however, not having seen him since October 1982, he denied that he was unwell. By then, in fact, he was seriously ill with a chronic respiratory disease and should have handed over the reins to his successor, his speech being

affected, his breathing painfully restricted (so that he easily became exhausted), and his handwriting, which had got progressively worse, now almost indecipherable (it had always been poor, largely because of the peculiarly twisted way he held a pen, itself a consequence of the posture he was forced to adopt while writing up his diary on his lap during wartime air-raids). Later in the year, he did admit to me that he had suffered a bad attack of the shingles (which kept him off work for some three months) and in December 1986 reported that he was having trouble with his legs, making walking difficult; but he struggled on, albeit now half-time, refusing to give up even though, by now, there was not all that much work that he could do and the business affairs of *BWP* were in disarray (and had to be rescued later by OUP). So, by one of those cruel twists of providence, Stanley Cramp eventually became a liability to the very project he had done so much to foster, a sad outcome which he certainly did not deserve.

His health continued to decline during 1987 until, in July, he suffered a stroke and was taken into St John and St Elizabeth Hospital, St John's Wood, where he died on 20th August, following a bout of pneumonia. His funeral, at Golders Green Crematorium on 26th August—attended by a number of his ornithological colleagues and the representatives of many of the bodies on which he had served—was a strangely muted affair, with few private friends, no personal words said, and none of his close family present (his brother Les having predeceased him two months earlier).

I have never met anyone quite like Stanley Cramp. A rule to himself, he was predictable only in his unpredictability, seldom taking the line one expected of him. Highly organised, he remained to the last a fatalist, as exemplified by his attitude to his own excessive smoking (which, together with the worries of *BWP*, undoubtedly hastened his death). Right at the centre of projects disseminating huge amounts of knowledge, he was no communicator. Highly dependent as he was on the help and co-operation of others, he remained to the end an autocrat, keeping everybody firmly in their allotted place within a strict hierarchy and often maintaining what seemed to be a compulsive and unnecessary secrecy about matters of mutual concern. Throughout his life, he exploited people and their ideas, taking advantage of their devotion to the progress of ornithology, but he was the one to get things done where softer souls would have failed. He had a persuasive way about him of getting the best out of you even while you were silently cursing him. Capable of evoking great devotion, he would draw intense hatred, even from former close friends and colleagues, some of whom no longer spoke to him. Hard-boiled and insensitive, he was capable of compassion and had a fondness for children. To the end, he remained an enigma, but about his greatness as a leading ornithological figure of the second half of the twentieth century there can be no doubt, not least for the legacy of *BWP*. There, as Max Nicholson has said, he 'turned in a performance much greater than could reasonably be expected of him', and for that we should all be grateful.

Acknowledgments

This profile would have been much less complete without the help of many others who answered my queries and provided additional information, my special thanks being due to Frank Rhodes and W. G. Teagle. I am also most grateful to E. M. Nicholson, Peter Conder and Geoffrey Berry; to Mrs D. M. Cramp and A. R. Stewart; to Dr W. R. P. Bourne, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock and D. I. M. Wallace; to Duncan J. Brooks (now Executive Editor, *BWP*), Dr N. J. Collar, Dr E. K. Dunn, P. A. D. Hollom, P. J. S. Olney, Dr D. W. Snow, Sir William Wilkinson (now Chairman, WPB Ltd), M. G. Wilson and Miss Ruth Wootton; to Richard Fitter, Dr J. J. D. Greenwood, Dr A. Melland, Dr J. F. Monk, Richard Porter, Ian Prestt and Robert Spencer; to the late M. D. England and Mrs Joan England; and to D. A. Bone (Customs and Excise), Keith Betton, David Conder (CPRE), M. J. Earp, Dr D. C. Houston, Dr C. Imboden, Dr Janet Kear, D. McClintock, D. Robinson (RAF records), Don Smith and Peter Sontag (Superintendent Registrar). I have also consulted: an unpublished interview given by Stanley Cramp to Angus Calder of Mass-Observation in March 1980; profiles by Ferguson-Lees (1966) and Barber (1979); newspaper obituaries in *The Independent*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and *The Times* (all published in 1987, soon after Stanley's death); and other obituaries by Bourne (1987), Nicholson (1988), Hudson (1987), Teagle (1988), and Collar (1988).

References

BARBER, D. 1979. Personalities 21: Stanley Cramp. *Brit. Birds* 72: 471-473.
BOURNE, W. R. P. 1987. Obituary: Stanley Cramp. *Sea Swallow* 36: 70.
CAMPBELL, B. 1979. *Birdwatcher at Large*. London.
CAMPBELL, W. D. 1962. Purposes of chemicals used in agriculture: a threat to wildlife. *Bird Study* 9: 245-251.
COLLAR, N. J. 1988. Stanley Cramp. *Riv. Ital. Orn. Milano* 58: 74.
CRAMP, S. 1933. Starling roosts in North West Cheshire, 1932-33. *North West. Nat.* 8: 111-114.
—— 1947. Notes on territory in the Coot. *Brit. Birds* 40: 194-198.
—— 1950. Courtship feeding of Jackdaw. *Brit. Birds* 43: 113.
—— 1955. The breeding of the Willow Warbler. *Bird Study* 2: 121-135.
—— 1957. Territorial and other behaviour of the Wood Pigeon. *Bird Study* 5: 55-66.
—— 1963a. Toxic chemicals and birds of prey. *Brit. Birds* 56: 124-139.
—— 1963b. Movements of tits in Europe in 1959 and after. *Brit. Birds* 56: 237-263.
—— 1971a. Dead Sea Sparrow: further breeding places in Iran and Turkey. *Ibis* 113: 244-245.
—— 1971b. Gulls nesting on buildings. *Brit. Birds* 64: 476-487.
—— 1972. The breeding of urban Woodpigeons. *Ibis* 114: 163-171.
—— 1977. *Bird Conservation in Europe*. London (HMSO).
—— (ed.) 1985-88. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. vols 4-5. Oxford.
——, BOURNE, W. R. P., & SAUNDERS, D. 1974. *The Seabirds of Britain and Ireland*. London.
—— & CONDER, P. J. 1970. A visit to the oasis of Kufra, spring 1969. *Ibis* 112: 261-263.
—— & FERGUSON-LEES, I. J. 1963. The birds of the Danube Delta and their conservation. *Brit. Birds* 56: 323-339.
——, PETTET, A., & SHARROCK, J. T. R. 1960. The irruption of tits in autumn 1957. *Brit. Birds* 53: 49-77, 99-117, 176-192.
—— & SIMMONS, K. E. L. (eds.) 1977-83. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. vols 1-3. Oxford.
—— & SPENCER, R. 1963. [The natural history of the gardens of Buckingham Palace:] Birds. *Proc. S. Lond. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* for 1963: 40-45.
—— & TEAGLE, W. G. 1952. The birds of Inner London, 1900-1950. *Brit. Birds* 45: 433-456.
—— & TOMLINS, A. D. 1966. The birds of Inner London, 1951-65. *Brit. Birds* 59: 209-233.
—— & WARD, J. H. 1934. A census of House Martins and Swallows near Manchester, 1933. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 3: 1-7.
—— & —— 1936. The Rookeries of South Manchester and District. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 5: 351-355.
DYRCZ, A. 1988. Passed away: Stanley Cramp (1913-1987). *Ring* 136-137: 89-91.
FERGUSON-LEES, I. J. 1966. Personalities—51: Stanley Cramp. *Birds* 1: 117.
HICKLING, R. (ed.) 1983. *Enjoying Ornithology*. Calton.
HUDSON, B. 1987. Obituaries: Stanley Cramp (1913-1987). *BTO News* 152: 3.
NICHOLSON, E. M. 1927. *The Way Birds Live*. London.
—— 1931. *The Art of Bird Watching*. London.
—— 1988. Obituary: Stanley Cramp OBE, BA (1913-1987). *Brit. Birds* 81: 10-13.
SIMMONS, K. E. L. 1989. Obituaries: Stanley Cramp (1913-1987). *Ibis* 131: 612-614.
TEAGLE, W. G. 1988. Stanley Cramp, OBE, BA, FZS, MBOU, 1913-1987. *Lond. Nat.* 67: 179-182.

Dr K. E. L. Simmons, 66 Romway Road, Leicester LE5 5SB

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Ali & Ripley *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (OUP). £22.50 ☐

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP). £75.00 ☐

Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins). £14.99 ☐

Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion). Paperback £8.75 ☐

Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser). £18.00 ☐

Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm). £35.00 ☐

*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50). Paperback £9.50 ☐

Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP). £24.95 ☐

Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser). £49.50 ☐

*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95). £9.95 ☐

Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐

*del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx) (DUE SEPTEMBER) PREPUBLICATION OFFER (normal price £95.00). £73.00 ☐

de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton). Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐

Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond). Paperback £11.95 ☐

Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐

ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm). Paperback £25.00 ☐

Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser). £27.00 ☐

Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton). Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐

Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm). £27.99 ☐

*Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £68.00 ☐ vol. 2 £68.00 ☐ vol. 3 £68.00 ☐ vol. 4 (DUE SEPTEMBER) PREPUBLICATION PRICE (FULL PRICE £85.00). £72.00 ☐

Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser). £17.00 ☐

Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser). £17.50 ☐

Guest & Hutcheson *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire* (Helm). Paperback £10.99 ☐

*Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic Press) (DUE AUTUMN). £65.00 ☐

Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan). £14.95 ☐

Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983. £24.99 ☐

Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986. £24.99 ☐

*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00). £10.00 ☐

Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser). £16.00 ☐

Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press). Hardback £22.50 ☐

Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World). £18.95 ☐

Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐

Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP). £19.95 ☐

Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987. £22.50 ☐

Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP). £35.00 ☐

Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet). £35.00 ☐

Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £20.00 ☐

LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm). Paperback £12.99 ☐

Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐

Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988. £22.99 ☐

Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU-OUP). £125.00 ☐

Marzluff & Balda *The Pinyon Jay* (Poyser). £20.00 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xii to complete your order.

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
NCCRSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm) Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (BRITISH BIRDS) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver) £18.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £16.50 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (HarperCollins) Paperback £14.99 ☐ Hardback £30.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France) £46.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) £6.95 ☐
Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING JULY 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.
Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro ac no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**

for passage and wintering birds associated with an expansion in the area of cultivated land. In Ussuriland, for example, Ruffs are mostly recorded on rice-fields (Glushchenko 1979), and the huge numbers which congregate in autumn in the south of the European USSR also feed on waste grain in harvested cereal fields or paddyfields (Kazakov *et al.* 1982; Kostin 1983).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

The Great Snipe's breeding distribution shows a close association with river valleys in the humid belt. This wader occupies a relatively narrow ecological niche, occurring only on especially rich water meadows with an abundance of earthworms (its main food). The area occupied by meadows on a natural river flood-plain is not great, as they exist at the early stages of a succession. The transformation of river flood-plains into meadows for hay-making and grazing, which took place in past centuries, encouraged the creation of large and flourishing Great Snipe populations. In the present century, cultivation of river valleys following drainage (reclamation) and subsequent ploughing has meant the destruction of the water-meadow habitats. The new agricultural land is unsuitable for the Great Snipe and the consequence is a steady decline in numbers and fragmentation of the breeding range; in such conditions, the species is now endangered according to Nikiforov & Gipet (1981). This is true, but not entirely so. First, the Great Snipe's decline began at the end of the nineteenth century (Buturlin 1902; Gladkov 1951), so that land reclamation could not have been the original and main cause of the population changes. Secondly, the Great Snipe is typical of boglands rather than meadows (e.g. Buturlin 1902; Popov 1977). The preferred breeding habitat is slightly damp but not wet tussocky bogs with a sparse growth of small shrubs. Breeding in meadows should evidently be viewed as a secondary development. Further, it is for this reason that the Great Snipe, unlike the Marsh Sandpiper, was always widely distributed in the forest zone, even penetrating into the tundra, making do with relatively small bogs in river valleys.

The decline in Great Snipe numbers is probably still continuing. Whereas in the last century and beginning of the present century hunters quite often used to bag hundreds per season in the spring and autumn (Popov 1977; Zinoviev 1980), the maximum bag for a good hunter specifically going after this quarry in the 1950s and 1960s was 38 Great Snipe over an autumn season, and the average was less than one bird per hunting trip (Pavlov 1973). The Great Snipe is now one of the rare waders of the central European USSR and, as suggested reasonably by Zubakin (1988), its present status is due not only to habitat loss, but also to poisoning by toxic chemicals. The species has been proposed for inclusion in the Red Data Book of the RSFSR (Russian Federation). In Latvia, it was a common breeder in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and nesting was confirmed in the republic in 1953 (Vīksne 1983). It is included in the Estonian Red Data Book (Kumari 1982). The Great Snipe is rare in Leningrad region, and the 1960s and 1970s saw a decline in the number of leks and of birds visiting them (Mal'chevskiy & Pukinskiy 1983). Drainage has led to a sharp decline in the Ukraine (Voinstvenskiy *et al.* 1981), such that censuses in the years 1982-88 showed a total of only ten to 15 'pairs' in the republic's western regions (Gorban' 1990). Only a few breeding sites are still occupied in Bashkiriya (Ilyichev & Fomin 1988). There is no information on population trends in western Siberia.

Information is insufficient to determine the limits of the present breeding range, but data from the sources mentioned above indicate not only retreat in some western and southern parts of the range, but also, above all, a fragmentation of the range (i.e. a change in its structure).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Observations indicating an expansion of the Long-billed Dowitcher's range were summarised by Kistchinski (1988), with a map showing distribution in Siberia up to 1920 and the state of knowledge at the end of the 1970s. During the present century, this species has spread from Chukotka and the Anadyr' lowlands both to the south, where it has colonised all the Koryak Highlands, and west to the Yana delta. In fact, it has spread even farther west (fig. 8). In 1977, downy young were recorded in Buor-Khaya bay (Tomkovich 1988), and, in 1982-83, there were a number of sight records and some were also collected in the Lena delta (including a female with egg ready for laying)(Labutin *et al.* 1985). The situation farther west is

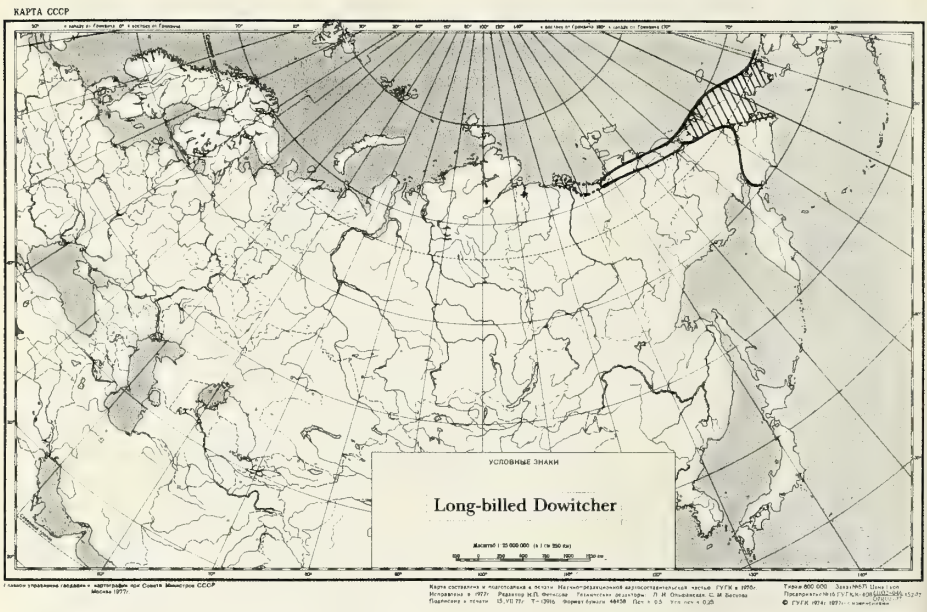


Fig. 8. Breeding distribution of Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* in the Soviet Union. Shaded area—supposed range before 1920; solid line—range in 1970s (both after Kistchinski 1988); dotted line—range in mid 1980s; crosses—recent summer records of adults

not clear as no serious ornithological fieldwork has been carried out on the tundra between Taymyr and the Lena delta over the last quarter of a century. Summer records of adults on the lower Anabar in 1961 (Gladkov & Zaletaev 1964) and in southeast Taymyr in 1981 (Chupin 1987) suggest that the species is continuing to spread westwards. Chupin (1987) commented that 'judging by the birds' behaviour, they had a nest or chicks nearby', but he

143. Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Soviet Union, June 1977 (*P. S. Tomkovich*)



unfortunately gave no further details. There is thus still no proof that the Long-billed Dowitcher has bred west of the Lena river.

Conclusion

Among the wader species for which population changes have been established and which are considered here in detail or briefly mentioned in the Introduction, the changes have been largely positive for eight species: Little Whimbrel, Black-winged Stilt, Golden Plover, Lapwing, White-tailed Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Ruff, and Long-billed Dowitcher. For two other species (Collared Pratincole and Marsh Sandpiper), the changes have been generally positive, but in some areas in the European part of the Soviet Union numbers have declined significantly. Finally, four species show predominantly or exclusively negative trends: Black-winged Pratincole, Sociable Plover, Great Snipe, and Slender-billed Curlew. On the basis of simple arithmetic, it may appear that positive trends predominate slightly



144. Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus* on nest, Soviet Union, June 1978 (*M. Omelko*)

over negative trends. This, however, is evidently not the case. The fact is that it is much easier to record an increase in numbers and the appearance of new species in areas where they have not been observed previously than the reverse processes. Confirmation of population declines requires, as was noted at the outset, monitoring and census studies, which have hardly been developed in the USSR. Moreover, even where there is a considerable population decline, isolated pockets of breeding birds survive for a certain period in most cases, so that only the structure of the range changes while its general outline remains the same. This also tends to mask negative population trends. It may therefore be supposed that population declines and range contractions among the waders of the Soviet Union are a more

widespread phenomenon than might appear from the information presented in this paper.

The data presented here allow another important conclusion regarding the way in which new areas are colonised by expanding species. For many species, the spread may take the form of both a gradual expansion (i.e. as it were an opening-up of the range limits) and a colonisation of areas well away from the main breeding range and the establishment there of independent centres of distribution. In the examples considered here, the range expansions of Black-winged Stilt, Lapwing and Marsh Sandpiper have proceeded simultaneously in both the ways described above. The Ruff, which shows virtually no fidelity to breeding site, has a greater tendency than other species to establish isolated pockets of distribution.

It is striking that the changes apply mainly to species which breed in southern and central regions of the former USSR. Ruff and Long-billed Dowitcher are the only northern species and they are both increasing and expanding their breeding ranges. The difference is readily understandable and reflects the varying level of man-made changes to the environment in different regions. For most species, explanations have been suggested for the changes which have taken place. All the explanations relate to human activity, primarily to agricultural development. For example, ploughing of steppes has led to the fragmentation of populations, or complete disappearance, of Black-winged Pratincole, Sociable Plover, and perhaps Slender-billed Curlew and Marsh Sandpiper. Forest clearance and the creation of new open tracts of farmland far to the north have encouraged a northward spread by Lapwing and Marsh Sandpiper. The widespread development of irrigation and rice-cultivation in the south of the Soviet Union and in other countries has perhaps become the main reason for the population growth of Black-winged Stilt and Ruff; irrigation in Central Asia probably enabled the White-tailed Plover to increase its population and consequently to expand its range. In contrast, the reasons are not at all clear for population and distribution changes of Collared Pratincole (range expansion), Golden Plover, Terek Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher, but, even in these cases, some human factors may be at work, affecting, for example, survival in the winter quarters.

Acknowledgments

This paper was translated from the Russian by M. G. Wilson. For permission to use their unpublished data, I wish to thank A. L. Mishchenko, V. V. Pronkevich, S. M. Smirenskiy, A. M. Sokolov, V. V. Khrokov and A. K. Yuzlov.

References

ANDREEV, B. N. 1987. *Ptitsy Vilyuyskogo basseyna* [The birds of the Vilyuy basin]. Yakutsk.

ARTYUKHOV, A. I. 1988. New nesting grounds of Little Curlew. In KONDRATIEV, A. Y. (ed.) *Informatsiya Rabochev gruppy po kulikam* [Bulletin of the Working Group on Waders]: 40-41. Vladivostok.

AVDANIN, V. O. 1983. On the avifauna of the Central Forest State Nature Reserve. In: *Vliyanie antropogennykh faktorov na strukturu i funktsionirovanie ekosistem* [Impact of human factors on the structure and functioning of ecosystems]: 3-4. Kalinin.

BELIK, V. P. 1988. Black-winged Stilt in the Don basin. In: IL'YASHENKO, V. Y. (ed.) *Resursy redkikh zhivotnykh RSFSR, ikh okhrana i vosproizvodstvo* [Resources of rare animals in the

RSFSR, their conservation and renewal]: 111-112. Moscow.

—— 1989. Further range expansion by the White-tailed Lapwing. In: DAVYGORA, A. V., & GAVLYUK, E. V. (eds.) *Rasprostranenie i fauna ptits Urala* [Birds of the Ural Mountains and their distribution]: 29-31. Orenburg.

BELOPOL'SKIY, L. O., BIANKI, V. V., & KOKHANOV, V. D. 1970. Data on the ecology of waders (Limicolae) of the White Sea. *Trudy Kandalaksh. gos. Zapoved.* 8: 3-84.

BOLOTNIKOV, A. M., EREMCHENKO, M. I., LITVINOV, N. A., ZHENINA, N. V., & KUDRINA, O. P. 1989. The bird communities of the Urals-Kama river region. In: DAVYGORA, A. V. (ed.) *Rasprostranenie i fauna ptits Urala: Informatisionnye materialy* [Birds of the Ural Mountains and their distribution: information reports]: 21-22. Sverdlovsk.

BORODIN, A. M. (ed.) 1984. *Krasnaya kniga SSSR: Redkie i nakhodyashchiesya pod ugrozoy ischeznoveniya zhivotnykh i rasteniy* [Red Data Book of the USSR: rare and endangered species of animals and plants]. vol. 1. Moscow.

BRAUDE, I. I. 1973. Waders of the lower Ob' valley. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya kulikov* [Waders and their ecology]2: 10-13. Moscow.

BURSKIY, O. V., & VAKHRUSHEV, A. A. 1983. Bird populations and their distribution in the southern Yenisey taiga. In: SYROECHKOVSKIY, E. E. (ed.) *Zhivotnyi mir Yeniseyskoy taygi i lesotundry i prirodnaya zonal'nost* [Fauna of the Yenisey taiga and forest tundra, and natural zonation]: 106-167. Moscow.

BUTURLIN, S. A. 1902. *Kuliki Rossiyskoy Imperii* [The waders of the Russian Empire]. vol. 1. Tula.

BYSHNEV, I. I., & TISHECHKIN, A. K. 1990. New information on some rare birds of the Berezina Nature Reserve. In: *Okhranyaemye zhivotnye Belorussii* [Protected animals of Belorussiya]: 30-36. Minsk.

CHERNICHKO, I. I., GRINCHENKO, V. B., ZHMUD, M. E., & MOLODAN, G. N. 1990. Numbers of colonial waders in the southern Ukraine, based on censuses in the years 1984-85. *Ornitologiya* 24: 165-166.

CHUPIN, I. I. 1987. Birds of the isolated Ary-Mas forest (eastern Taymyr). In SYROECHKOVSKI, E. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya ptits i mlekopitayushchickh Sredney Sibiri* [Birds and mammals and their ecology in Central Siberia]: 39-53. Moscow.

DANILOV, N. N., RYZHANOVSKIY, V. N., & RYABITSEV, V. K. 1984. *Ptitsy Yamala* [The birds of the Yamal peninsula]. Moscow.

DEMENTIEV, G. P., & GLADKOV, N. A. (eds.) 1951. *Ptitsy Sovetskogo Soyuza* [The birds of the Soviet Union]. vol. 3. Moscow.

DEMETRIADES, K. K. 1976. Northern limit of nesting by Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus* L.) in Komi ASSR. *Vestnik Zool.* (3): 80.

DOLGUSHIN, I. A. 1962. Order Waders—Limicolae. In: DOLGUSHIN, I. A. (ed.) *Ptitsy Kazakhstana* [The birds of Kazakhstan] 2: 40-245. Alma-Ata.

DOROFEEV, A. M., & KOZLOV, V. P. 1980. Lapwing ecology in the Poozerye ('lake district') of Belorussiya. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Novoe v izuchenii biologii i rasprostranenii kulikov* [New data from studies of wader biology and distribution]: 142. Moscow.

DOROGOY, I. V. 1985. The bird fauna of Wrangel Island. *Byull. Mosk. Obshch. Ispyt. Prir. Otdel. Biol.* 90(2): 38-41.

ELSUKOV, S. V. 1984. The coastal bird fauna of northern Ussuriland. In: NAZARENKO, A. A. (ed.) *Faunistika i biologiya ptits yuga Dal'nego Vostoka* [Faunistic and biological studies of birds in the south of the Far East]: 34-43. Vladivostok.

ESTAFIEV, A. A. 1977. Nesting of Lapwings in the Pechora river basin. *Ornitologiya* 13: 189-190.

FEDYANINA, T. F., EREMCHENKO, V. K., & KUMUSHALIEV, B. K. 1981. Ecology of Collared Pratincole in Kirgiziya. MS No. 2828-81 deposited in All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information. Moscow. 11pp.

GLADKOV, N. A. 1951. Order Shorebirds—Limicolae or Charadriiformes. In: DEMENTIEV, G. P., & GLADKOV, N. A. (eds.) *Ptitsy Sovetskogo Soyuza* [The birds of the Soviet Union] 3: 3-372. Moscow.

—— & ZALETAEV, V. S. 1964. Observations on the birds of the Anabar tundras (Trans-Polar Yakutiya, north-west). *Trudy zool. Muz. MGU* 9: 38-62.

GLUSHCHENKO, Y. N. 1979. Birds of ricefields in the Lake Khanka lowlands. In: KOROTKOV, Y. M., & NECHAEV, V. A. (eds.) *Biologiya ptits yuga Dal'nego Vostoka SSSR* [Biology of birds in the south of the Soviet Far East]: 56-66. Vladivostok.

GOLOVINA, N. M. 1987. Changes in the community of nesting waders in areas subjected

to drainage. In: *Vliyanie antropogennoy transformatsii landshafta na naselenie nazemnykh pozvonochnykh zhivotnykh. Tez. Vsesoyuz. Soveshchaniya* [Impact of man-made changes to the landscape on the terrestrial vertebrate population. Abstracts of papers from an All-Union Symposium] Part 2: 133. Moscow.

GORBAN, I. M. 1990. Conservation of Charadriiformes in protected areas of the western Ukraine. In: *Zapovedniki SSSR—ikh nastoyashchee i budushchee: Tez. Dokl. Vsesoyuz. Konf.* 3: 209-211 [Nature reserves in the USSR—their present and future. Abstracts of papers from an All-Union Conference, Part 3: 209-211]. Novgorod.

GRICHIK, V. V. 1989. Continuing range expansion by Lapwing: first nesting in subarctic Siberia. In: KONDRATIEV, A. Y. (ed.) *Informatsiya Rabochey gruppy po kulikam* [Bulletin of the working Group on Waders]: 61. Magadan.

GRISHANOV, G. V. 1987. Information on some rare bird species of Kaliningrad region. *Ornitologiya* 22: 179-190.

GUBKIN, A. A. 1973. Biology of Black-winged Pratincole and Black-winged Stilt in Dnepropetrovsk region. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya kulikov* [Waders and their ecology] 1: 37-38. Moscow.

—— 1988. Black-winged Stilt in Dnepropetrovsk region and prospects for its conservation. *Ornitologiya* 23: 207-208.

GUDINA, A. N. 1988. Black-winged Stilt on the northern limit of its range in the left (west) bank region of the Ukraine. *Ornitologiya* 23: 208.

GYNGAZOV, A. M., & MILOVIDOV, S. P. 1977. *Ornitofauna Zapadno-Sibirskoy ravniny* [The birds of the West Siberian Plain]. Tomsk.

IL'YASHENKO, V. Y. 1986. On the birds of the Upper Zeya basin. *Trudy Zool. Inst. Akad. Nauk SSSR* 150: 77-81.

ILYICHEV, V. D., & FLINT, V. E. (eds.) 1982. *Ptitsy SSSR. Istoriya izucheniya. Gagary, poganki, trubkonosye* [The birds of the USSR. Historical survey. Divers, grebes, tubenoses]. Moscow.

—— & FOMIN, V. E. 1979. The bird fauna of Bashkiriya and its changes in the 20th century. *Ornitologiya* 14: 83-96.

—— & —— 1988. *Ornitofauna i izmenenie sredy (na primere Yuzhno-Ural'skogo regiona)* [The bird fauna and environmental changes (based on a study of the South Urals region)]. Moscow.

JANKEVIČIUS, K. *et al.* (eds.) 1981. *Red Data Book of the Lithuanian SSR: Rare and Endangered Species of Animals and Plants.* Vilnius. [Lithuanian and Russian.]

KASHKAROV, D. Y., & OSTAPENKO, M. M. (eds.) 1990 *Ptitsy Uzbekistana* [The birds of Uzbekistan] vol. 2. Tashkent.

KAZAKOV, B. A., BELIK, V. P., PEKLO, A. M., & TIL'BA, P. A. 1982. Waders (Aves, Charadriiformes) of the northern Caucasus. Report No. III. *Vestnik Zool.* (6): 37-43.

——, PEKLO, A. M., TIL'BA, P. A., & BELIK, V. P. 1983. Waders (Aves, Charadriiformes) of the northern Caucasus. Report No. IV *Vestnik Zool.* (2): 47-54.

KHROKOV, V. V., AUEZOV, E. M., BEREZOVSKIY, V. G., & GRACHEV, A. V. 1979. Expansion of White-tailed Lapwing breeding range in Kazakhstan. *Ornitologiya* 14: 200-202.

KISTCHINSKI, A. A. 1980. *Ptitsy Koryakskogo nagor'ya* [The birds of the Koryak Highlands]. Moscow.

—— 1988. *Ornitofauna severo-vostoka Azii: istoriya i sovremennoe sostoyanie* [The bird fauna of north-east Asia: history and present status]. Moscow.

KISTYAKOVSKIY, A. B., & SMOGORZHEVSKIY, L. A. 1973. A report on the bird fauna of the Lower Amur. In: *Voprosy geografii Dal'nego Vostoka* 11: 182-224. Khabarovsk.

KOKHANOV, V. D. 1983. Ecology of Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Curlew in Murmansk region. Tex. Dokl. XI Pribalt. orn. Konf.: 110-112. Tallinn.

KONDRATIEV, A. Y. 1982. *Biologiya kulikov v tundrakh Severo-Vostoka Azii* [Biology of waders on the tundras of north-east Asia]. Moscow.

KOSTIN, Y. V. 1983. *Ptitsy Kryma* [The birds of the Crimea]. Moscow.

KOZLOV, V. P., & IVANOVSKIY, V. V. 1980. Nesting of Golden Plover in the Poozerye ('lake district') of Belorussiya. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Novoe v izuchenii biologii i rasprostranenii kulikov* [New data from studies of wader biology and distribution]: 148-149. Moscow.

KOZLOVA, E. V. 1961. Rzhankoobraznye. Podotryad kuliki. *Fauna SSSR. Ptitsy.* Tom 2. Vypusk 1. Chast'2. (Charadriiformes—Suborder waders. In: *Fauna of the USSR.* Birds. Vol. 2, No. 1, Part 2). Moscow-Leningrad.

—— 1962. Rzhankoobraznye. Podotryad kuliki. *Fauna SSSR. Ptitsy.* Tom 2. Vypusk 1. Chast' 3.

(Charadriiformes—Suborder waders. In: *Fauna of the USSR.* Birds. Vol. 2, No. 1, Part 3). Moscow-Leningrad.

KUCHIN, A. P. 1983. Ecology and nesting of waders in the Altai region. In: *Ptitsy Sibiri. Tez. Dokl. Vtoroy Sibirsk. orn. Konf.* 186-188. Gorno-Altaysk.

—— & CHEKCHEEV, I. P. 1987. Short communications on rare bird species. Black-winged Stilt in the Kulunda lake depression. In: IL'YASHENKO, V. Y. (ed.) *Problemy okhrany redkikh zhivotnykh* [Problems associated with the conservation of rare animals]: 142. Moscow.

KUMARI, E. V. 1973. Changes in distribution and numbers of waders in Estonia over recent decades. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya kulikov* [Waders and their ecology] 2: 50-52. Moscow.

KUMARI, K. E. 1982. *Punane Raamat.* Tallinn. [Estonian.]

KYDYRALIEV, A. K. 1982. Breeding waders new to Kirgiziya. *Ornitologiya* 17: 169.

LABUTIN, Y. V., LEONOVICH, V. V., & VEPRINTSEV, B. N. 1982. The Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* in Siberia. *Ibis* 124: 302-319.

——, DEGTYAREV, A. G., & BLIKHIN, Y. Y. 1985. Birds. In: ANDREEV, V. N. (ed.) *Rastitel'nyi i zhivotnyi mir del'ty reki Leny* [Flora and fauna of the Lena river delta]: 88-110. Yakutsk.

LANE, B. A. 1987. *Shorebirds in Australia.* Melbourne.

LARIONOV, A. G. 1984a. Waders in the northern part of the Lena-Amga interfluve. In: MORDOSOV, I. I. (ed.) *Ekologiya nazemnykh pozvonochnykh taezhnoy Yakutii* [Ecology of terrestrial vertebrates in the taiga of Yakutiya]: 34-45. Yakutsk.

LARIONOV, G. P. 1984b. Changes in the bird fauna of the taiga part of western Yakutiya over recent decades. In: MORDOSOV, I. I. (ed.) *Ekologiya nazemnykh pozvonochnykh taezhnoy Yakutii* [Ecology of terrestrial vertebrates in the taiga of Yakutiya]: 3-17. Yakutsk.

LEONOVICH, V. V. 1981. New data on bird distributions in Magadan region. *Ornitologiya* 16: 154-155.

—— 1986. Changes in the avifauna of the southern Kanin peninsula. *Ornitologiya* 21: 136-137.

—— & NIKOLAEVSKIY, L. A. 1976. Distribution and numbers of Far Eastern Curlew. *Trudy Okskogo gos. Zapoved.* 13: 153-157.

LITUN, V. I., & MAKAROV, V. A. 1984. Ornithological discoveries in Kirov region. In: *Problemy okhoty, vosproizvodstva i okhrany promyslovykh zverey i ptits* [Problems associated with the hunting, renewal and conservation of economically important animal and bird resources]: 23-26. Perm'.

LOBACHEV, V. S. 1968. Little Bustard and Great Bustard in the deserts of the north-east Aral Sea region. *Ornitologiya* 9: 358-360.

LOBKOV, E. G. 1986. *Gnezdyashchiesya ptitsy Kamchatki* [The breeding birds of Kamchatka]. Vladivostok.

MAL'CHEVSKIY, A. S., & PUKINSKIY, Y. B. 1983. *Ptitsy Leningradskoy oblasti i sopredel'nykh territoriy: istoriya, biologiya, okhrana* [The birds of Leningrad region and adjoining territories: history, biology, conservation] vol. 1. Leningrad.

MIKHAYLOV, K. E., & FIL'CHAGOV, A. V. 1984. Characteristics of the distribution and spread of some bird species in the Kola peninsula tundra. *Ornitologiya* 19: 22-29.

MINORANSKIY, V. A., & DOBRINOV, A. V. 1990. The Black-winged Stilt in a man-made landscape. *Priroda* (2): 54-57.

MISHCHENKO, A. L. 1988. Additions to the new edition of the Red Data Book of the RSFSR. In: IL'YASHENKO, V. Y. (ed.) *Resursy redkikh zhivotnykh RSFSR, ikh okhrana i vosproizvodstvo* [Resources of rare animals in the RSFSR, their conservation and renewal]: 32-37. Moscow.

MOLODAN, G. N., & KABAKOV, A. N. 1986. Collared Pratincole and Black-winged Pratincole in the northern Black Sea region. In: SOKOLOV, E. V., SYROECHKOVSKIY, E. E., & KUZYAKIN, V. A. (eds.) *Vsesoyuznoe soveshchanie po probleme kadastra i ucheta zhivotnogo mira. Tez. Dokl.* 2 [All-Union symposium on the problem of mapping and censusing animal populations. Abstracts Part 2]: 355-356. Moscow.

NECHAEV, V. A. 1963. New data on the birds of the Lower Amur. *Ornitologiya* 6: 177-183.

—— 1979. New information on bird distribution and biology on Sakhalin Island. *Ornitologiya* 14: 108-111.

NEDZINSKAS, V. S. 1990. The present status of waders in Lake Žuvintas reserve. *Ornitologiya* 24: 154-157.

NIKIFOROV, L. P., & GIPET, L. A. 1981. Factors regulating numbers and dispersion of Great Snipe in natural and man-made habitats. *Tez. Dokl. X Pribalt. orn. Konf.* 2: 147-150. Riga.

NIKOLAEV, V. I. 1990. Status of Golden Plover and Whimbrel in the Upper Volga region. *Ornitologiya* 24: 157-158.

OSIPOVA, M. A., & GOLOVUSHKIN, M. I. 1986. Data for the mapping of bird distributions in south-east Transbaykalia. In: SOKOLOV, V. E., SYROECHKOVSKIY, E. E., & KUZYAKIN, V. A. (eds). *Vsesoyuznoe soveshchanie po probleme kadastra i ucheta zhivotnogo mira. Tez. Dokl.* 2 [All-Union symposium on the problem of mapping and censusing animal populations. Abstracts Part 2]: 366-369. Moscow.

PAVLOV, M. P. 1973. Nature and intensity of the impact of hunting on waders in habitats of the mid-Volga basin. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya kulikov* [Waders and their ecology] 1: 121-124. Moscow.

POLIVANOVA, N. N., & GLUSHCHENKO, Y. N. 1979. Nesting of Black-winged Stilt at Lake Khanka. *Byull. Mosk. Obshch. Ispyt. Prir. Otd. Biol.* 84(4): 85-87.

POLUSHKIN, D. M. 1980. Ornithological observations on north-west Baykal near the Baykal-Amur railway. *Ornitologiya* 15: 201-202.

POPOV, V. A. (ed.) 1977. *Ptitsy Volzhsko-Kamskogo kraya. Nevorob'inie* [Birds of the Volga-Kama region. Non-passerines]. Moscow.

—— 1987. New data on the bird fauna of the Bauntov depression. *Ornitologiya* 22: 191-193.

PORTENKO, L. A. 1972. *Ptitsy Chukotskogo poluostrova i ostrova Vrangelya* [Birds of the Chukchi peninsula and Wrangel Island]. vol. 1. Leningrad.

PRIEDNIEKS, J., STRAZDS, M., STRAZDS, A., & PETRIŅŠ, A. 1989. *Latvian Breeding Bird Atlas* 1980-1984. Riga.

ROGACHEVA, E. V. 1988. *Ptitsy Sredney Sibiri: rasprostranenie, chislennost', zoogeografiya* [The birds of Central Siberia: distribution, population, zoogeography]. Moscow.

ROSLYAKOV, G. E. 1980. The Lapwing in the Lower Amur region. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Novoe v izuchenii biologii i rasprostranenii kulikov* [New data from studies of the biology and distribution of waders]: 164. Moscow.

RUBENSTEIN (RUBINSHTEYN), N. A. 1983. Wader fauna of the Pechoro-Ilych Nature Reserve. *Ornitologiya* 18: 179-180.

SAMIGULLIN, G. M. 1987. Short communications on rare bird species. Black-winged Stilt in Orenburg region. In: IL'YASHENKO, V. Y. (ed.) *Problemy okhrany redkikh zhivotnykh* [Problems associated with the conservation of rare animals]: 141-142. Moscow.

SEMENOV, B. T. 1980. Range expansion by Lapwing in Arkhangel'sk region. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Novoe v izuchenii biologii i rasprostranenii kulikov* [New data from studies of the biology and distribution of waders]: 165-167. Moscow.

SHARONOV, A. D. 1963. Ornithological observations in the environs of Tyumen'. *Ornitologiya* 6: 485-486.

SHKATULOVA, A. P. 1979. Data on the bird fauna of the Buryat ASSR. *Ornitologiya* 14: 97-107.

SPANGENBERG, E. P., & ZHURAVLEV, M. N. 1967. Changes in the breeding range and population of Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*). *Byull. Mosk. Obshch. Ispyt. Prir. Otd. Biol.* 72(3): 129-130.

SPASSKAYA, T. K. 1989. Eco-morpho-physiological characteristics of the Black-winged Stilt. In: KHOKHLOV, A. N. (ed.) *Ornitologicheskie resursy Severnogo Kavkaza* [Ornithological resources of the northern Caucasus]: 77-80. Stavropol'.

STAŠAITIS, J., & MARGIS, G. 1984. Kamanu rezervato aukštapelkės paukščiu fiticenozinis ir sezoninis pasiskirstymas bei gausumas. *Nauch. Trudy Vuzov Litovsk. SSR. Biologiya* 22: 18-25. [Lithuanian, with Russian and English summaries.]

STRELKOV, V. E. 1976. Waders and gulls of the Tyma river basin. *Trudy nauchno-issled. Inst. Biol. Biofiz. Tomsk. Univ.* 7: 30-40.

TOLCHIN, V. A. 1976. Distribution and ecology of Marsh Sandpiper in Central Siberia. *Nauch. Dokl. vyssh. Shk. Biol. Nauki* (5): 42-48.

—— 1983a. Breeding waders of inter-montane depressions in north-east Transbaykalia. In: EGOROV, A. G. (ed.) *Ekologiya pozvonochnykh Vostochnoy Sibiri* [Ecology of vertebrates in Eastern Siberia]: 90-101. Irkutsk.

—— 1983b. Distribution and ecology of Ruff in the south of Eastern Siberia. In: EGOROV, A. G. (ed.) *Ekologiya pozvonochnykh Vostochnoy Sibiri* [Ecology of vertebrates in Eastern Siberia] 75-90. Irkutsk.

—— 1984. Distribution and ecology of Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) in eastern Siberia. In TOLCHIN, V. A. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya ptits Vostochnoy Sibiri* [Birds of Eastern Siberia and their ecology]: 111-131. Irkutsk.

TOMKOVICH, P. S. 1988. Birds of the southern shore of Buor-Khaya bay (Northern Yakutiya). *Trudy zool. Muz. MGU* 24: 3-38.

—— & SOROKIN, A. G. 1983. The bird fauna of eastern Chukotka. *Trudy zool. Muz. MGU* 21: 77-159.

UHLIG, R. 1990. Zum Vorkommen des Terekwasserläufers (*Xenus cinereus*) in Südosteuropa. *Beitr. Vogelk.* 36: 234-236.

UTINOV, R. S., & ZABORSKAYA, V. N. 1980. Numbers of Lapwing in the forest-steppe of Northern Kazakhstan. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Novoe v izuchenii biologii i rasprostranenii kulikov* [New data from studies of the biology and distribution of waders]: 175-176. Moscow.

VARSHAVSKIY, S. N. 1973. Distribution and ecology of waders in the northern Aral Sea region and adjoining districts. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiyas kulikov* [Waders and their ecology] 2: 20-23. Moscow.

VENGEROV, M. P. 1982. Composition of the spring wader fauna in the Troitsko-Pechorsk district of Komi ASSR. *Ornitologiya* 17: 160-161.

VIKSNE, J. (ed.) 1983. *Birds of Latvia: territorial distribution and number.* Riga.

VINOGRADOV, V. V. 1963. Nesting of White-tailed Plover in Transcaucasia. *Ornitologiya* 6: 303-305.

VOINSTVENSKIY, M. A. (ed.) 1988. *Kolonial'nye gidrofil'nye ptitsy yuga Ukrainy* [Colonial waterbirds of the southern Ukraine]. Kiev.

——, KRYZHANOVSKIY, V. I., & LEGEYDA, I. S. 1981. Changes in the fauna of the Ukrainian Poleseye in association with drainage and land reclamation. *Vestnik Zool.* (5): 3-9.

VOLKOV, A. E. 1986. Nesting of Little Curlew on the Anabar Plateau. *Ornitologiya* 21: 129-130.

VOROBIEV, K. A. 1963. *Ptitsy Yakutii* [The birds of Yakutiya]. Moscow.

YASKOV, V. A. 1981. New and vagrant bird species in the Lower Ob' region (Western Siberia). In: YURLOV, K. T. (ed.) *Ekologiya i biotsenoticheskie svyazi pereletnykh ptits Zapadnoy Sibiri* [Ecology and habitat links of migratory birds in Western Siberia]: 180-181. Novosibirsk.

ZALETAEV, V. S. 1968. *Prirodnaya sreda i ptitsy severnykh pustyn' Zakaspiya* [The natural environment and birds of northern Transcaspian deserts]. Moscow.

ZHUKOV, V. S. 1988. Marsh Sandpiper in the forest-steppe zone of Central Siberia. *Ornitologiya* 23: 208-209.

ZINOVIEV, V. I. 1980. *Ptitsy lesnoy zony Evropeyskoy chasti SSSR (Rzhankoobraznye)* [Birds of the forest zones in the European part of the USSR (Charadriiformes)]. Kalinin.

ZLOBIN, B. D. 1973. Waders as gamebirds in Kirov region. In: FLINT, V. E. (ed.) *Fauna i ekologiya kulikov* [Waders and their ecology] 1: 110-112.

ZUBAKIN, V. A. 1979. Nesting of Black-winged Stilt in Chita region. *Ornitologiya* 14: 191-192.

—— 1988. Birds in the European part of the Soviet Union—candidates for inclusion in the Red Data Book of the RSFSR. In: IL'YASHENKO, V. Y. (ed.) *Resursy redkikh zhivotnykh RSFSR, ikh okhrana i vosproizvodstvo* [Resources of rare animals in the RSFSR, their conservation and renewal]: 25-32. Moscow.

——, MISHCHENKO, A. L., ABONSIMOVA, E. V., VOLOSHINA, O. N., KOVAL'KOVSKIY, S. Y., KRASNOVA, E. D., MOGIL'NER, A. A., NIKOLAEVA, N. G., SOBOLEV, N. A., SUKHANOVA, O. V., & SHVARTS, E. A. 1986. Present status of some rare bird species in Moscow region. Non-passerines. *Ornitologiya* 21: 77-93.

ZUBTSOVSKIY, N. E., & RYABITSEV, V. K. 1976. New information on the birds of the Kanin peninsula. *Ornitologiya* 12: 228-231.

Dr Pavel S. Tomkovich, Department of Ornithology, Zoological Museum of Moscow State University, Herzen St 6, 103009 Moscow, Russia

Sponsored by

Monthly marathon



That preening, streaky passerine (plate 98) was named as:

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*	(80%)
Blackbird *Turdus merula*	(7%)
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*	(3%)
Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*	(2%)

with a few votes each for Black Lark *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, Redstart *P. phoenicurus*, Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* and Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*.

It was a juvenile Robin, photographed by Graham Catley in South Humberside in July 1989.

Once again, none of the leading contenders fell at that hurdle, so we still have no winner of the SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday to Africa, Asia or North America. The race continues and it really is a marathon this time.

The next hurdle is provided by plate 145.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



145. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-fourth stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 73). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th August 1992

Fieldwork action

BTO news

BTO Low-tide Estuary Counts, a new national scheme The BTO co-ordinates the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry, whereby teams of volunteers document the species and numbers of birds using 117 of the UK's estuaries and 60 selected non-estuarine sites. Their activities allow us to

monitor annual variation in population levels, seasonal population fluctuations and information on roosting distribution, and have been doing so since 1969. But the BoEE does not collect information on the distribution of feeding birds within estuaries, the sort of information which is especially important for preparing a sound case when tackling the problem of piecemeal development of prime sites.

The new BTO Low-tide Count Survey which is being launched aims to target each of the larger UK estuaries once every five winters. The survey will consist of a series of low-tide counts undertaken by local volunteers. Counters will be involved only in half a dozen counts within a specified time period, unlike the ongoing commitment required by the BoEE programme. To begin with, a list of 14 sites lacking recent coverage has been drawn up.

We welcome hearing from local people or groups who are keen that their local estuary should be covered. Those who have organised a low-tide count programme have found that the interest and satisfaction gained from the results greatly outweigh the not inconsiderable effort.

The programme, backed by the RSPB and the JNCC, will begin in winter 1992/93. Please contact the Head of the Estuaries Unit at BTO HQ if you are interested. PAUL GREEN

British Trust for Ornithology, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU



ICBP news

Indonesia – challenge and opportunity The opening of an ICBP programme office in Bogor, Indonesia, is an exciting step forward for the ICBP's conservation programme. Indonesia has the most threatened bird species of any country in the world (see *Birds to Watch*, Collar & Andrew, 1988) and has also been identified as a top priority by the ICBP's Biodiversity Project, because of its high number of restricted-range species. Indonesia is also home to many celebrated bird families, such as megapodes, birds of paradise, cockatoos and hornbills.

With over 60% of the country forested and nearly 7% of the land area with some kind of conservation status, it may initially seem that the environment is in comparatively good shape, and the prospects for the avifauna reasonable. A look at the human statistics, however, paints a different picture. Indonesia's current population of 180 million is growing at 2.3% a year, and agriculture and industry are being developed, financed largely by revenue from oil and timber. The threats are enormous, but, with the significant amount of habitat that remains, the opportunities for conservation are equally large.

The opening of the ICBP office is associated with the signing of an agreement between the ICBP and the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA), the Indonesian government body, for a collaborative conservation programme.

The programme is wide-ranging, involving field research, public awareness and the implementation of conservation measures. The promotion of conservation organisations in Indonesia and training of prospective conservationists are key elements, since building a strong in-country conservation movement is crucial to the long-term prospects. An assessment of the ecology and status of wild populations of traded birds, especially parrots, will be made, with a view to setting limits for their sustainable use. The endemic bird areas identified by the ICBP's Biodiversity Project will be priority targets for field action.

The conservation of the wildlife of Indonesia's 17,500 islands is a challenging task, but it is central to the goal of conserving the world's biodiversity, and the ICBP is well equipped to play a central part in meeting that challenge.

Any birders visiting Indonesia may like to get in touch with Paul Jepson at the ICBP Indonesia Programme Office, for advice on the best areas to visit. Paul is very willing to help and can be contacted at the ICBP Indonesia Programme Office, PO Box 212/BOO, J L Cilosari, Block XII, No. 1, Bogor Baru, Bogor 16001, Indonesia; tel: (62) 251 325862; fax: (62) 251 325755. GEORGINA GREEN

ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Review

Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar. By Clive Finlayson. Illustrated by Ian Willis. T. & A. D. Poyser, London, 1992. 534 pages; 29 black-and-white plates; 25 line-drawings; numerous figures and tables. £27.00.

Not a little of what is known about the birds of southern Spain is based on pioneering work by Gibraltar-based workers. Principal among these was Lt Col. Howard Irby, whose 1875 account of the *Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar* remains a fascinating snapshot of the landscape and wildlife of a then-unspoilt corner of the Western Palearctic. Clive Finlayson's book is a natural successor to Irby's, but is true to latter-day ornithological traditions in being much more discursive than descriptive.

An introduction describing the area precedes four lengthy chapters on migration: of soaring birds, other landbirds, waterbirds and seabirds, respectively. Each will be obligatory reading for students in these fields, containing much unpublished material, including what are in effect mini-papers on the key species. The accounts of Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* (9 pages and 6 figures) and the author's work on Pallid Swifts *Apus pallidus* (and Swifts *A. apus*) in Gibraltar are particularly noteworthy. Finlayson has done his work well, and the literature has been fully researched and skilfully combined with the data amassed by local ornithologists. Comparisons with other areas are detailed and interesting. For example, the raptor passage at Gibraltar is set in the context of all the flyways between Eurasia and Africa. Two chapters on terrestrial and wetland communities are useful, but would have benefited from wider comparison with other Western Mediterranean communities. The final chapter deals with seasonality and distribution, and with the ornithological importance of the Gibraltar area.

This book is a veritable mass of information, mainly well presented. Those numerous figures giving dispersion and abundance indices will, however, be largely unintelligible to those not schooled in community ecology and might well have been omitted. In any case, figures should always be self-explanatory, and readers may be irritated by the use of barely meaningful species-codes (e.g. BLUT, GRTT, CRST and COLT in figs. 211/214 on tits *Parus*), instead of full names. Perhaps some of the community analyses could have been replaced by a fuller treatment of conservation issues. The Gibraltar area is currently subject to pressures from industrial pollution, tourism, urbanisation and competition for scarce water resources. The environmental impact of these merited detailed consideration and the opportunity has not been taken to compare fully the situation of the region's birds and habitats, as documented by Irby and others a century and more ago, with the status quo. These are but minor criticisms, however, of a thorough and valuable work.

ERNEST F. J. GARCIA

Short reviews

Distribucion y Demografia de la Grulla Comun (Grus grus) en España. Edited by Javier A. Alonso & Juan C. Alonso. (Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentacion, ICONA, Madrid, 1991. 192 pages. No price given) This attractively presented book in Spanish (with English summaries and descriptions of figures) maps the distribution of the 45,000 or so Cranes wintering in Spain, of which 43% gather in four main areas. Population modelling indicates that annual recruitment rates of less than 10% would result in extinction; actual rates are only just over this critical level.

[LEO BATTEN]

Le Rollier d'Europe. By Alain Christof. (Les Éditions du point Vétérinaire, Maisons-Alfort, 1991. 192 pages. Paperback 198F) Enthusiasm and extensive personal, indeed intimate, experience underlie this concise biography. All aspects of European Roller *Coracias garrulus* biology are detailed informatively and accurately, with useful illustrations, including many stunning colour photographs by the author. Thoroughly recommended even for those with mediocre French—and a pattern that UK publishers might note and follow.

[JIM FLEGG]

Das Rebhuhn. By Rolf Dwenger. (Die Neue Brehm-Bücherei 447, A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittenberg Lutherstadt, 2nd edn, 1991. 144 pages. Paperback DM29.80) The Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* was declared 'Bird of the

Year 1991' in recognition of the pressing need to address its catastrophic decline. This German monograph gives a good, albeit dated and slightly muddled, all-round view of partridge biology. Nevertheless, the reason for the decline is clearly stated: agricultural intensification leading to habitat loss and low brood sizes. Co-operation between farmers, hunters and conservationists is the key to reversing the trend. The Feuchtwangen Project aims to do this; it is introduced by Dwenger and is a glimmer of light in an otherwise gloomy situation.

[DICK POTTS]

The Birds of the Balkan Peninsula. By Simeon Simeonov & Taniu Michev; illustrated by Gueorgi Pchelarov. (Peter Beron, Sofia, 1991. 250 pages. No price quoted) This is the first-ever Bulgarian-produced field guide. Apart from scientific names and certain references, the text is wholly in Cyrillic script. The interest for western ornithologists, however, will largely be in the maps, which show each species' distribution (in red, pink, blue and yellow) not only for Bulgaria, but for the whole of the Balkan Peninsula south of about 47°N (so including the whole of mainland Greece and Albania, as well as a large part of Romania and the former Yugoslavia). The major impact of this book, however, will certainly be within Bulgaria and its neighbours. The illustrations match those in many other field guides, with differing age/sex-related plumages being illustrated, as well as appearance in flight, and a serious attempt to display each species' different jizz. Some deficiencies are apparent in critical cases such as the *Phylloscopus* warblers, but this book is likely to revolutionise the general public's interest in birds and the competence of field ornithologists in southeast Europe. [JTRS]

The Complete Garden Bird. By Les Stocker. (Chatto and Windus, London, 1991. 184 pages. £9.99) From an horrific opening sequence describing how birds caught in a factory explosion were rehabilitated (and in some cases rebuilt), subsequent chapters deal with ways of providing shelter, nest-sites and food for familiar, and not so familiar, garden birds. It is in this respect that the book is often over-ambitious, advising the planting of gorse to attract nesting Bramblings *Fringilla montifringilla*, and including, in an otherwise useful list of nestbox dimensions, one for Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. Such criticisms apart, this book will answer many questions which we, as birders, are often asked by non-birders, and should help to encourage every reader to unlock the tremendous potential of gardens as bird reserves.

[BARRY NIGHTINGALE]

In Search of Sparrows. By Denis Summers-Smith. (T. & A. D. Poyser, London, 1992. 141 pages. £17.00) The author of *The House Sparrow* (1963) and *The Sparrows* (1988) describes his adventures travelling in search of all of the world's sparrows *Passer* (only Saxaul Sparrow *P. ammodendri* has so far eluded him). It is always fun to read about other birders' adventures and mishaps in places such as the Sahara, the Cape Verde Islands, Thailand and Afghanistan. [JTRS]

Seventy-five years ago...

THE SEVERE WINTER OF 1916-17 AND ITS EFFECT ON BIRDS IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND by C. J. CARROLL. 'In the south of Ireland, hard relentless frosts and unprecedented snowstorms began in November, 1916, and lasted —with interruptions—until the middle of April 1917, causing the destruction of birds in incredible numbers. A continuous three weeks' frost was followed early in February by heavy snow, which drifted to a depth of over ten feet, rendering many roads quite impassable.

'Birds were then dying everywhere, and a Brambling, one of the wildest of small birds, came several times beneath the window to feed with other pensioners. All species were very restless, ever on the move searching for unfrozen ground. Black-headed Gulls swung backwards and forwards in front of windows to fetch up eventually beside the food which my wife spread daily near the house, while Curlews forced from the marshes became comparatively tame, and wandered through the open fields in little bands. White-fronted Geese were seen in unexpected places, and Snipe from all parts congregated on the river banks. Nevertheless, they quickly became mere atoms of fluffy skin and bone, and died in quantities. Numerous Woodcocks came down from the mountains to delve about in mossy hollows and under the shelter of thorn bushes. Unlike the Snipe they remained rather well conditioned throughout, though what they found to eat goodness only knows.

'The Thrush family fared badly, but Fieldfares less so than the other members. Redwings, always the first to collapse in hard weather, suffered dreadfully and were strewn around everywhere dead. For warmth at night, they stuffed themselves into every available hole, and when I was sawing timber I found their frozen remains tightly wedged into narrow cracks. Soon after that they all disappeared and I have not since seen any Redwings. Here, in the south, Blackbirds and Song-Thrushes were seriously thinned out, but in Co. Mayo Mr Ruttledge finds the former in their usual numbers now, while Song-Thrushes have been almost exterminated there, as they have been in Co. Dublin, according to Canon Benson. Mistle-Thrushes quickly succumbed, and those left have been singularly silent. For a few weeks Fieldfares entirely disappeared, but in spring they turned up again in flocks preparatory to leaving the country.

'Underneath Starling roosts the ground was thickly littered with corpses, and Rooks in a semi-starved condition eked out an existence by drinking the blood of the feeble birds they slaughtered. All the *Corvidæ* seemed to win through, doubtless by indulging their natural carnivorous tendencies.

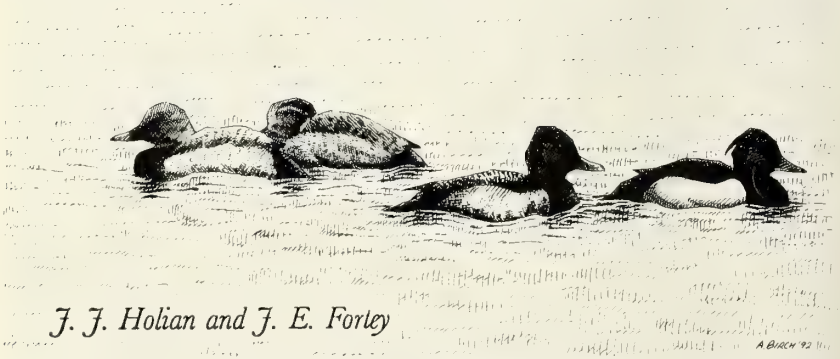
'Lapwings even came into stable-yards—those individuals that were not starved or frozen. However, Golden Plover fared better and did not become the least tame, while I noticed little or no diminution of Coots or Waterhens.

'Golden-crested Wrens have almost ceased to exist: I have not seen one since mid-winter and I doubt if more than one per cent survives. The Tits obviously suffered, especially Long-tailed Tits and Coal-Tits; and Stonechats and Grey Wagtails are now quite scarce. The latter birds appear to be as delicate as they look and are always most susceptible to weather changes. Pied Wagtails, on the other hand, seem unaffected by weather, and are now as numerous as heretofore. Robins have decreased slightly, Wrens more so, and Meadow-Pipits paid a very heavy toll.

'The winter had, of course, no effect on the hardy Crossbill, while Buntings and Finches came out of it well, especially Chaffinches, which are evidently exceptionally robust, and never once looked starved and miserable like almost everything else.

'Throughout the whole of Ireland the mortality amongst the birds must have been desperately heavy, for even along the western seaboard there was no respite from the awful frost. I am told of Lapwings which lay dead in bunches in Kerry, a county which has often proved the assured refuge of the hordes fleeing there to escape the icy grip of winter.' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 26-27, July 1917).

Lesser Scaup: new to the Western Palearctic



J. J. Holian and J. E. Forley

At about 09.45 GMT on 8th March 1987, JJH stopped at Jefferys Swag, Chasewater, West Midlands, to look for a long-staying male Scaup *Aythya marila*. He found, instead, a small, immature Scaup-type duck asleep amongst

the wintering flock of Tufted Ducks *A. fuligula*. As there was obviously something 'different' about this bird, he brought it to the attention of A. D. Barter and J. J. Oliver, who were also present. Together they set about examining it in greater detail. After half an hour or so, they were still uncertain about the identity of this duck and so decided to obtain a comparison with the drake Scaup which had, by then, been located on the main pool. After studying the Scaup for a while, they returned for another look at the small bird on the Swag and spent an hour observing it and taking field notes. Unfortunately, the bird was asleep most of the time, but the following points were noted:

> Small Scaup-type duck, similar in size to Tufted Duck. Vermiculated back, 'broken' brown breast markings and brownish primaries, indicative of immature drake. Head not so noticeably rounded as that of Scaup, having pronounced 'bump' at rear, and looking uniformly dark in colour without any sheen (maybe owing to dull conditions). Habitually held tail erect, showing ragged tail feathers. Undertail buffish or off-white, with hint of darker brown on feather tips. Bill Scaup-like, blue/grey in colour, with small black nail. Eyes yellow, but somewhat duller than those of adjacent Tufted Ducks.

After some discussion, they agreed that the bird was probably a Scaup × Tufted Duck hybrid. Later in the day, the bird was independently observed by another regular Chasewater birdwatcher, G. Evans, who subsequently came to the same conclusion.

Over the next week, the bird received scant attention until, on the evening of 15th March, JEF, T. E. Giles, A. Keatley and A. I. Whatley, unaware of the bird's presence, paid a brief visit to the Swag to have a quick look at the ducks before moving on to view the gull roost on the main pool. They soon saw the adult drake Scaup and then noticed a second *Aythya* some distance away, under overhanging willows. At first they thought that it resembled Pochard *A. ferina* × Tufted Duck hybrids with which they were all familiar, but, although the crown shape was similar, the bird's head looked blacker and lacked any red coloration, and the mantle was paler. A Scaup × Tufted Duck hybrid was suggested, although this combination was not known to any of them. Lesser Scaup *A. affinis* was jokingly mused, but, as more and more identification features were seen that they could remember as characteristics of that species, that possibility seemed increasingly likely. The bird was distant and offered tantalising views as it swam in and out of the cover of the overhanging willows. The low sun gave the bird's head a greenish gloss, which seemed a slightly worrying feature, but Tufted Ducks' heads looked similar in this light. Its bill was all blue, with a narrow black nail, making a hybrid origin unlikely. AK and JEF had brief views of strong black vermiculations on the scapulars, and noted that the bird's size was slightly less than that of drake Tufted Ducks. When the bird flew a short distance, TEG and AIW saw the upperwing, which looked white on the secondaries and grey on the primaries.

That evening, JEF and TEG examined a slide taken at Slimbridge and consulted the available literature, and became fairly certain that the bird was a Lesser Scaup. The following evening, JEF and GE – who had considered the bird to be a hybrid – discussed the identification and came to the conclusion that it was a Lesser Scaup.

News of this brought people to Chasewater from places as far apart as Scotland and the Continent, but no-one seemed to have any literature relating to the immature plumage of the species. Many hours spent observing the bird

seemed to raise more unanswered questions about various aspects of the plumage. Available reference books suggested that the Lesser Scaup should have a dark purple gloss to the head, something that the Chasewater bird showed in good light. There was, however, also a noticeable green sheen around the cheek area that seemed to extend down onto the sides of the neck. On 21st March, A. R. Dean pointed out that this feature is illustrated in *The Birds of Canada*; that book, however, does not show the green on the cheek extending onto the neck.

On the following day, the bird was quite active, giving comparatively good views of its head, including a new feature: a small, pale blue margin, much paler than the rest of the bill, situated immediately behind the black nail. This feature had also been noted by E. G. Phillips, but we had no idea whether this 'fitted' Lesser Scaup; we were also concerned about the colour of the undertail. The only way to resolve the various problems was to compare the bird at Chasewater with other specimens of Lesser Scaup, so on 29th March JJH visited Slimbridge to examine those in the collection. Unfortunately, there were no immatures present, but it was a bright day and the glossy purple sheen on the drakes' heads was obvious; all of the drakes observed also had the green sheen on the cheeks, and it did indeed extend down onto the sides of the neck in the same manner as on the bird at Chasewater. All of the drakes also showed the pale area on the bill, behind the nail, although this did vary in extent from one individual to another.

By 11th April, two small, dark spots were noticeable on the undertail; as the days passed, this flecking increased, until, by 25th April, it had become very prominent. The bird was last seen at Chasewater on 26th April, and was photographed (*Brit. Birds* 80: plate 175; 85: plates 146-149).

The following is a summary of notes taken during 40 hours of observation:

SIZE AND SHAPE Approximately same as Tufted Duck, but appeared flatter on back: an impression probably heightened by bird's tendency to hold tail more or less continuously erect. Bill less steeply arched than that of Tufted Duck. Head distinctly 'bumped' at the rear.

BARE PARTS Bill slightly darker in colour than those of Tufted Ducks; small black terminal 'nail', separated from Scaup-like blue-grey bill by pale blue margin. Eyes yellow, but less bright than those of drake Tufted Duck. Legs seldom seen, apparently greyish.

UPPERPARTS Head and neck dark; head with purple gloss, and iridescent green sheen on 'cheeks' extending onto sides of neck (in dull conditions, head and neck appeared uniformly dark). Upperparts predominantly grey with black tips to feathers, giving same general appearance as Scaup, except that black was more prominent, particularly on mantle. On closed wings, the primaries appeared dark brown, but in flight seemed more greyish-brown. Wing-stripe very bright white on the open wing, restricted to secondaries and not extending onto primaries (unlike Scaup). Tail feathers brown, and seemed ragged.

UNDERPARTS Breast broken, medium chestnut-brown, broken up with pale buff areas; during bird's stay, small black patch appeared, initially on sides of upper breast, progressively increasing until by late April upper breast was black and lower breast broken-brown. Flanks dull, off-white, with fine vermiculations. Shape of flank patch differed from that of Tufted Duck, showing gentler 'S' shape to top edge. Lower edge of flanks (just on, but mainly below, the waterline) had a prominent line of brown, immature plumage, visible on both sides, but this feature gradually faded and broke up as the bird continued to moult. (The belly was white: P. G. Lansdown *in litt.*). When first observed, undertail pale buff/off-white, with slightly darker edges to the feathers; during bird's stay, black spots/blotches gradually developed. (The underwings were mainly white with some brown, including a line just inside the leading edge: J. H. Marchant *in litt.*).

THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

invites readers of ***British Birds*** *into our membership. If you join the only North American association of and for birders, you will receive* ***Birding****, our bi-monthly magazine which gives active field birders the expertise they seek, and* ***Winging It****, a lively monthly newsletter with the latest happenings and rarities. Many ABA birdwatchers are available to advise or guide visitors to their local areas. These members are listed in our Membership Directory.*

Annual Dues: US$ 37.00 or £20.00. Sterling checks acceptable.

For sample copies, send US$3.50 or £2.00 to:

American Birding Association
PO Box 6599 Colorado Springs, CO 80934 USA (D963)



THE ALL NEW INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE

RARE BIRD NEWS
0881 888 111

THE CHEAPEST & BEST VALUE BIRDLINE
CALLS COST 25p/MINUTE CHEAP RATE

RING US AND SAVE £££'s

WHY PAY MORE ON HIGHER PREMIUM RATES?

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS ON LOCAL RATES
FROM ANYWHERE IN THE U.K. 0426 923 923

JOIN OUR NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF NEWS PROVIDERS

RARE BIRD NEWS IS HELPING CONSERVATION

ENQUIRIES: BIRDING U.K. 146 KEW ROAD, RICHMOND, LONDON TW9 2AU
CALLS TO 0881 NO'S CHARGED AT 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES INC. VAT
(D100)

SLC BINOCULAR

MODEL ILLUSTRATED 8 x 30 SIX MODELS IN THE RANGE

The compact SL model has a new roof prism system to provide a neat and lightweight binocular you can take anywhere. Like its big brother the prisms are first laser aligned then secured so they are shock resistant. This process also eliminates those slight mis-alignments which you can't usually see, but can cause eye-strain and sometimes headaches.

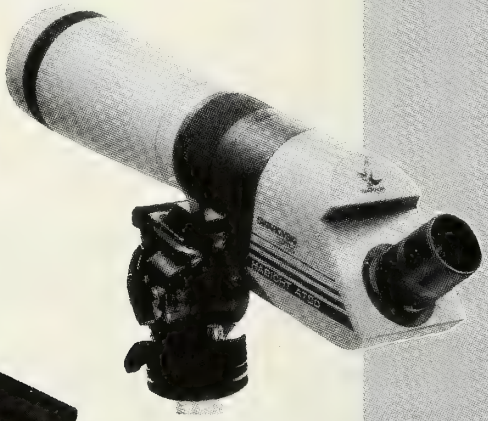


FULLY WATERPROOF

AT80 TELESCOPE

With a large 80mm diameter objective lens, the latest AT80 observation scope gives optimal performance even in poor light. Exchangeable oculars with bayonet catch and replaceable turn-back eyecups make for comfortable viewing, whilst ultra-fast focusing down to 6m provides a good all-round range. An integrated optik adapter enables the connection of a reflex camera for a new dimension in close-up photography.

FULLY WATERPROOF

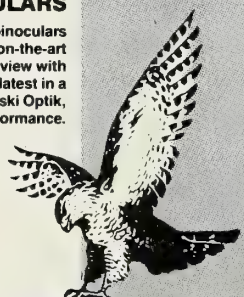




FULLY WATERPROOF

8 x 20 B COMPACT BINOCULARS

The pocket sized Habicht 8 x 20 B binoculars represent the latest in state-on-the-art technology. Featuring a wide field of view with high-resolution image, they are the latest in a superb range of binoculars from Swarovski Optik, noted for its excellence in high quality optical performance.



SWAROVSKI OPTIK

The natural choice.

All Swarovski Optik products are manufactured in Austria and carry a full warranty.

For further information and a full colour brochure please write to:

SWAROVSKI UK LIMITED,
One The Boulevard, Blackmoor Lane, Watford, Herts. WD1 8YW.
Telephone: 0923 816366. Telefax: 0923 816005. Telex: 24958 SWARO G.

(D138)



146-149. First-winter male Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, West Midlands, March 1987 (*David M. Cottridge*)





150. First-winter male Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis,* Florida, USA, January 1987 (*R. J. Chandler*)

151. Adult male Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis,* California, USA, March 1978 (*A. Rogers*)



The inclusion of plates 146-151 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany.*



152 & 153. Adult male Scaup *Aythya marila* (left) and Lesser Scaup *A. affinis* (right) to show differences in extent of wing-stripe and bill pattern, especially nail shape; Ontario, Canada, April 1981 (*A. D. Brewer*)



This record of a first-year male Lesser Scaup was the first to be accepted for the Western Palearctic. A male occurred in Co. Down during 13th February to 14th April 1988, and again in Co. Down and Co. Armagh during 4th September 1988 to 3rd May 1989, 13th December 1989 to 27th April 1990, and 7th December 1990 to February 1991 (*Irish Birds* 4: 87; *Brit. Birds* 82: 517, plate 287; 84: 463). A male was seen in Nottinghamshire on 22nd-23rd April 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 463).

J. J. Holian, 45 Heath Road, New Invention, Willenhall, West Midlands WV12 5EP
J. E. Fortey, 56 Dulwich Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0ER

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) and Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) have commented as follows: 'Over the years, observers in Britain have discovered a number of ducks which have resembled male Lesser Scaup. Whenever one of these has remained long enough and come close enough to be studied in sufficient depth for a positive identification to be made, it has turned out to be a male Tufted Duck × Pochard hybrid or, more rarely, a male Tufted Duck × Scaup hybrid. As our knowledge of the appearance of such hybrids has grown, so the initial optimism and panic have decreased. When a bird resembling a male Lesser Scaup was found at Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire, in December 1957, staying until March 1958 and reappearing for periods of similar length in the winters of 1958/59 and 1959/60, opinions on its identification differed so widely that it was eventually decided to obtain a permit to collect it. It was shot on 3rd March 1960, under a licence issued by the Nature Conservancy, so that its identification could be established. It was a Tufted Duck × Pochard hybrid (*Brit. Birds* 54: 49-54). Thankfully, and initially because of this episode and its published outcome, the level of field-identification expertise has risen greatly in the years since.

'Lesser Scaup's size, head-shape, bill-shape, bill-tip pattern, gloss on head, upperparts pattern and extent of wing-band are important characters in the identification and record-assessment processes. At Chasewater, with a male Scaup for direct comparison, all of these characters, including the Lesser Scaup's subtly smaller black nail on the bill-tip, could be used to separate the two species. During its consideration of the record, the BBRC was well aware that, although hybrids tend to conform to certain types, great variation does occur in both structure and plumage. It is worth noting, too, that Scaup and Lesser Scaup have started interbreeding in recent years in Newfoundland (Keith Vinicombe *in litt.*). Nevertheless, the Chasewater bird's tiny black bill-tip, the coarse black vermiculations on its mantle and scapulars and its white wing-band being confined to its secondaries satisfactorily ruled out the possibility of a hybrid and confirmed it as a Lesser Scaup. The BBRC unanimously accepted it as such on a single circulation of the record, and this decision was endorsed by the BOURC.

'In addition, the BOURC had to make a judgment on the bird's likely origin. Lesser Scaup breeds in northwestern North America from central Alaska and western Canada south to northern Idaho, northeastern Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa and has spread northeastwards recently to Newfoundland. It winters mainly from southern British Columbia, Colorado, Arkansas, southern Illinois and eastern Maryland south to northern South America and the West Indies. The only previous record to the east of North America is of one at Amerloq Fjord, Greenland, on 12th May 1985. In 1987, Lesser Scaup was to be found in Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust collections and in at least two other collections in Britain. The WWT reared 19 Lesser Scaups in 1986. There had been no known imports into Britain since 1980.

'The BOURC took all of these factors into consideration when assessing the likely origin of the Chasewater Lesser Scaup and the Committee was unanimous in its decision to accept it as being of natural occurrence (*Brit. Birds* 82: 517; *Ibis* 133: 218-222). This resulted in Lesser Scaup being placed in Category A of the British and Irish list.' EDS

Notes



First-brood juvenile Great Crested Grebe 'helping' second-brood chicks On 31st August 1987, at Whiteknights Lake, Reading, Berkshire, PG was watching two Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* chicks riding on the back of a parent when, at 15.15 GMT, a first-brood juvenile fed a small fish to one of the chicks. The juvenile had hatched as an only chick

on about 22nd June and was therefore ten weeks old; it was still being fed by its parents. The two second-brood chicks were probably two to six days old. On 7th September, RO watched the same family: one adult was still carrying the chicks on its back, the well-grown first-brood young was loafing nearby, and the second parent was fishing at the other end of the lake. The latter caught a fish and started to carry it towards the other grebes; it was met halfway by the first-brood juvenile, which accepted the fish, but, instead of swallowing it, swam towards the adult carrying the second-brood chicks and gave the fish to one of the chicks.

Between 8th September and 2nd October, the same 'helping' behaviour was observed again on a number of occasions by PG, who formed the impression that it occurred frequently; in some instances, a parent had first caught a small fish and passed it to the juvenile. RO, however, felt that the fishing adult seemed to take positive steps to avoid the first-brood young, swimming around it and diving to confuse it, although on one occasion it was intercepted by the juvenile, which it presented with a fish, but this time the latter ate the fish immediately.

Helping behaviour by first-brood Great Crested Grebes has apparently never been recorded before in Britain, although it is briefly noted for other European countries in *BWP* (vol. 1, page 83).

P. Gipson and Richard Orton
17 Christchurch Gardens, Reading RG2 7AH
Department of Pure & Applied Zoology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AJ

Harrier-like hunting technique of female Sparrowhawks Each autumn-winter since 1986, at several sites on the Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire/Norfolk, I have regularly observed large female Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* individually hunting the open, flooded washland. When hunting Snipes *Gallinago gallinago*—favoured as prey on the Washes—a hawk flies 1-2 m above wet areas, quartering the ground like a harrier *Circus*, with a slow wing action (high upstroke) and irregular flight path. During its hunting bouts, it frequently panics thousands of ducks, mostly Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos*, Wigeons *A. penelope*, Teals *A. crecca* and Pintails *A. acuta*: as it passes through these rising and wheeling flocks for up to 100 m at a height of 2-5 m, it performs a slow, relaxed flapping display flight with an exaggerated wingstroke, the wings being raised particularly high on the upstroke; it does not appear to be actively hunting at this point, and I believe that the display is probably prompted by the hawk's feeling 'intimidated' when surrounded by these relatively large birds. No other Sparrowhawks have been present in the vicinity during these displays. The general effect of the display flight and slow hunting methods is to create the impression of a much larger bird; indeed, these Sparrowhawks have in the past been misidentified as Goshawks *Accipiter gentilis* by some observers.

J. B. Kemp
2 Northfield Farm, Hundred Foot Bank, Pymore, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2EL

Dr Ian Newton has commented: 'The slow wing flap is normally given as a form of territorial defence, often in the presence of other Sparrowhawks. One might therefore conceive of the same flight being given by a bird which felt "intimidated".' Eds

Lesser Black-backed Gull apparently begging from Great Black-backed Gull On 24th October 1980, at Chew Valley Lake, Avon, I was watching a Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* feeding on a dead fish. It drove away a Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* which tried to approach the carcase. A Great Black-backed Gull *L. marinus* flew down and displaced both species. While the larger gull was feeding, the Lesser Black-back approached in submissive attitude, body horizontal, with upward tossing of its head; it repeated this several times. Both gulls appeared to be fully adult, but the posture adopted by the Lesser Black-back resembled the food-begging attitude of a juvenile gull or a breeding female. D. WARDEN
Centaur, Ham Lane, Bishop Sutton, Bristol BS18 4TZ

Derek Goodwin has commented: 'I suspect a submissive display, comparable to that of some corvids, of which I wrote in *Crows of the World* (2nd edn, 1986, p. 42): "A common factor in all the situations in which the quivering display may be given in non sexual situations is that it appears always to be shown as an alternative to either attacking or fleeing".' We cannot resist also quoting Dr J. J. M. Flegg's light-hearted comment: 'I would have been submissive in similar circumstances.' EDS

Woodpigeon attempting to feed from suspended peanut-holder On 29th October 1989, in my garden at Newbury, Berkshire, I watched a feeding Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* fly to and perch on top of a hanging wire peanut-holder, which was half full. It remained there for nearly one minute, attempting to feed, but, unable to reach the nuts, it eventually flew off. It returned twice more and repeated the exercise, but gave up after the third attempt. *BWP* (vol. 4) states that this species is 'remarkably agile, and will even hang upside down in trees to reach food', but I can find no reference to this particular feeding method or food item. NIGEL CLEERE
25 Bedford Close, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6SU

David Glue has commented: 'The record neatly described by Nigel Cleere is of interest and worth reporting, though the BTO has accumulated a number of cases of this species feeding thus over 22 years of the Garden Bird Feeding Survey.' A paper summarising the records of a wide variety of species at nut-holders, reported to the BTO's Garden Bird Feeding Survey, is in preparation for *British Birds* by David Glue. EDS

Barn Owls and Jackdaws sharing nest site On 10th April 1988, a pair of Barn Owls *Tyto alba* which I was studying in Wiltshire had five eggs in the narrow central cavity in the rotten stump of an elm *Ulmus*. There were three narrow entrances to the cavity, only one of which was large enough for the owls to use. Throughout the owls' egg-laying period, there had been much courtship activity by Jackdaws *Corvus monedula* in the area of the stump. By 29th April, all three entrances had a Jackdaw nest inside containing eggs which were being incubated; the owl entrance was completely blocked off. Quite what happened during the hours of darkness when food was brought to the young owls is a matter for conjecture, but in every case the Jackdaw blocking the main access must have had to move out or be trodden over; there was no other way in for the Barn Owls. By early June, two juvenile owls remained in the cavity, the

remainder having been decapitated over a period, presumably by the adult owls. The Jackdaw nest in the main entrance was reduced from five eggs to three, all of which hatched, but by early June only one chick remained.

The activities that took place in the entrance tunnel are a mystery, but for more than one month the owls had access to their young only by climbing over the centre of the Jackdaw nest, and all four nests were within an area of 0.5 m^2. The fate of the Jackdaw chicks is also a mystery. Did the adult Barn Owl prey on the young Jackdaws while the latter's parents were foraging for food? Of a total of 13 Jackdaw eggs, six hatched, but only three young fledged.

A. J. CREASE
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Lumsden Barracks, Fallingbostel, BFPO 38

Barn Owls and Tawny Owls nesting close together As part of a Forestry Commission nestbox project for Barn Owls *Tyto alba*, modified ten-gallon plastic drums were erected on trees at numerous locations within the Newton Stewart forest district in Dumfries & Galloway, southwest Scotland. Each site contained two drums, one placed vertically and the other horizontally, as part of an experiment to try to determine if the owls had a preference for either. During visits to one such site in both the 1987 and the 1988 breeding seasons, we discovered the vertical drum occupied by Barn Owls and the horizontal drum occupied by a pair of Tawny Owls *Strix aluco*. Both species reared young in each year, despite the drums being only 34 m apart and in view of each other on the edge of a conifer plantation. In 1988, a similar situation was recorded 14 km from the above site and where the drums were 40 m apart; this resulted in the Barn Owls rearing young and the Tawny Owls failing at the egg stage.

In most cases, strongly territorial species such as the Tawny Owl will not tolerate smaller birds of prey nesting nearby, and it is not advisable to place nextboxes for other species near to a Tawny Owl nest site (Mikkola 1976; Petty 1987). Although Barn Owls will nest very close to each other (Callion 1973; G. Sheppard *in litt.*), it is not usual to find the above two species successfully nesting so close to each other.

ANDY DOWELL and GEOFF SHAW
12 Glentrool Village, Bargrennan, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire DG8 6SY

REFERENCES

CALLION, J. 1973. Barn Owls nesting close together. *Scot. Birds* 7: 260.
MIKKOLA, H. 1976. Owls killing and killed by other owls and raptors in Europe. *Brit. Birds* 69: 144-154.
PETTY, S. J. 1987. The design and use of a nest box for Tawny Owls in upland forests. *Quart. J. Forestry* 81: 103-109.

Rapid occupation of tree nursery by Woodlarks The use of tree nurseries by breeding Woodlarks *Lullula arborea* in Hampshire and Surrey is well known (e.g. Sitters 1986), and it may be of interest to record how rapidly this man-made habitat can be occupied by the species. In spring 1985, small trees and shrubs were planted on an 80-ha Hampshire farm.

One year later, on 1st June 1986, I recorded a male Woodlark singing over the site, and on almost every subsequent visit that I made, at all seasons, I heard one or two individuals; in August 1987, a family party of four was present (the first proof of breeding there), and a maximum of four singing males was reached in spring 1989. Although the *Breeding Atlas* showed confirmed breeding in the relevant 10-km square (Sharrock 1976), I had never seen Woodlarks in the area before, despite having made regular visits since 1971.

The habitat fitted two of the three characteristics mentioned by Sitters (1986) as being typical of Woodlark territories: the site is slightly sloping, and is on dry, well-drained soil; it is not, however, a warm situation, tending to be a frost hollow, but is otherwise well suited to Woodlark colonisation. Owing to human activities, no Woodlarks have been seen at the site since spring 1990.

ROBIN GRIFFITHS
2 Hallsfield, Cricklade, Wiltshire SN6 6LS

REFERENCES

SHARROCK, J. T. R. 1976. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Berkhamsted.
SITTERS, H. P. 1986. Woodlarks in Britain, 1968-83. *Brit. Birds* 79: 105-116.

Woodlarks feeding under cover At 09.00 GMT on 13th September 1985, in South Devon, we saw three Woodlarks *Lullula arborea* feeding inside a large polythene tunnel at a horticulture experimental station. Although this was at first considered to be an isolated occurrence, a similar observation was made on 25th September, when, as before, the larks were reluctant to leave the tunnel. On this second occasion, the larks began responding to a fourth individual which flew in to the area from elsewhere, calling loudly; after circling above the tunnel, the latter was joined by the others, and all four then flew a short distance to adjoining horticultural land. To enter the tunnel, the Woodlarks would have had to fly in over a 1.3-m windbreak; they could not have walked in while feeding outside. This suggests that they habitually fed there, and probably first discovered the site by walking in at a time when the windbreak was not in position. They often fed in a small patch of wallflowers *Cheiranthus* just outside the tunnel and, if the windbreak was not in place, would find the tunnel's ground little different from that outside. Unfortunately, however, their food source in the tunnel was never positively ascertained, but among the possibilities were aphids, found in abundance on sweetcorn and tomato plants, and beetles, which frequented the bare dry ground between the plants. No Woodlarks were subsequently seen in the tunnel, although the flock remained in the area throughout the autumn and winter.

A. M. JEWELS and IAN KENDALL
Lundy Island, via Bideford, Devon EX39 2LY

Mistle Thrush singing in flight at 60 m At 09.55 GMT on 16th March 1986, on Pitsea Marsh, Essex, I heard the song of a Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* and located a pair of this species flying straight and strongly, at a height of about 200 feet (60 m), and 30 feet (10 m) apart, in a

southwesterly direction across the saltings. The song was delivered vigorously and was audible for about 25 seconds. JOHN H. SMART

34 Tyelands, Billericay, Essex CM12 9PA

As noted in *BWP* (vol. 5), song is delivered 'normally from high perch . . . exceptionally from ground . . . and not infrequently in flight'. When flying across a valley, from one piece of woodland to another, song can be given at considerable heights, but 60 m seems high for a relatively flat area such as Essex saltmarsh. EDS

Bark-tearing by Goldcrest On 16th October 1985, near Durham, Co. Durham, I watched a Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* feeding in the hawthorns *Crataegus monogyna* of a hedge at the edge of a woodland. Although it fed mostly by picking small items off the twigs, it also spent some few minutes tearing off loose bits of bark (as tits *Parus* often do) and pecking at the exposed areas of twig. I can find no reference in the literature to Goldcrests feeding in this way. DAVID M. WILKINSON

35 Meadow Lane, Worsley, Manchester M28 4PL

Dr M. A. Ogilvie conjectured that the Goldcrest could perhaps have learned this behaviour from tits. EDS

Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tits and Coal Tits eating algae The note on Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus* apparently eating lichen (*Brit. Birds* 80: 169) interested me. On many occasions in winter and early spring, I have watched parties of Long-tailed Tits feeding in this way on the green algae covering the bark on trunks and branches of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and, occasionally, birch *Betula*. The rapid, intensive pecking on a small area of smooth bark is quite different from the selective searching for invertebrate food. I have also seen Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* and Coal Tits *P. ater* feeding in just the same way, though much less frequently. Professor G. E. Fogg, an expert on algae, has informed me (*in litt.*) that algae of the genera *Pleurococcus* and *Chlorella*, those probably involved, 'could accumulate as much as a third of their dry weight in the form of fat', and it seemed to him likely that birds could derive a considerable amount of nourishment, in the form of both protein and fat, from algae on tree trunks. Further details are provided in my book *The Titmice of the British Isles* (1975, pages 113-114).

The late J. A. G. BARNES

Possible sap-sucking by Long-tailed Tits and Blue Tits After a week of snow in January 1987, in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, I passed some sycamore trees *Acer pseudoplatanus* which had been lopped the previous day. Long icicles hanging from the cut ends of the branches were being visited by a flock of Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus* together with a few Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus*. Both species appeared to be drinking from the melt-water which was slowly dripping from the icicles. There were no icicles on other parts of the tree, but only on the upward-facing raw wood,

and I presumed that the tits were taking advantage of the escape of sap (although they may, of course, have been seeking water).

A. J. MACFARLANE
Martin's Close, 11 Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP17 0EE

Foster & Tate (1966, *Living Bird* 5: 87-113) recorded a number of passerines visiting 'sapsucker trees' in North America to drink the sap. EDS

Blue Tits drinking sap In very cold weather in February 1987, in Winchester College Water Meadows, Hampshire, I watched up to three Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* drinking sap from a fresh cut on a Caucasian wing-nut *Pterocarya fraxinifolia.* None of the accompanying Great Tits *P. major* and Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus* was seen to drink the sap. Close inspection of the cut confirmed that the liquid was indeed sap, and not water.

S. K. WOOLLEY
Willingale House, 2 Butts Farm, Butts Green, Lockerley, near Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0JG

Letter

Looking 'Fisons' gift horse in the mouth Now that the dust has settled a little on the announcement by *Fisons* and English Nature concerning lowland raised peat mires, a little stocktaking of the situation seems appropriate.

Fisons has made much of its intention to hand over a total of 8,100 acres (3,280 ha) of freehold land to English Nature.

Consider this, however. Of the total, only 2,800 acres (1,130 ha) have been handed over immediately. That leaves 5,300 acres (2,145 ha) of SSSIs still being mined for peat. Much of that land has already been heavily worked; some of the remainder has had at least the vegetation stripped. *Fisons* might feel that, having damaged the natural history interest of those areas that much, it might as well go the whole hog. True it intends to leave a half-metre average depth to aid regeneration. Would it not be better, though, to leave all of the remaining depth of peat, and give regeneration an even better chance of success?

I do not hold the view that English Nature has 'sold out'.

Unless the DoE had been prepared to give sufficient grant to local authorities to allow them to buy out the extant planning permission, under the 1981 Minerals Act, there was little more that the *Fisons* deal could go for. Without the extra Government cash, local authorities would get charge-capped if they paid out the sort of sums involved from existing funds.

Unfortunately, it does tie their hands. If the restoration and regeneration plans do not work, what will they do? Pull out of the deal? Unlikely.

Fisons will no doubt already have visited the senior buyers at *Texas, Homebase, B & Q, Tesco* and so on, urging them to relax their moratorium on peat products extracted from SSSIs. *Fisons* would not want to admit that the ban has affected its sales, but I believe that it did.

Now, it is vital that conservation groups redouble their efforts in the campaign against peat extraction from lowland raised mires. Local authorities which have not signed the Peat Charter should be contacted, 'to check progress'. Those bodies which have signed should be refreshed.

A publicity campaign promoting alternatives should be launched. Most important of all, individuals should write to the major retail chains, urging them not to accept peat from any SSSI site, and to promote alternatives. They should also write to local authorities and public bodies on a similar basis.

The *Fisons* deal may excite the habitat creators. There may be good wildlife sites created from the worked-out mires, but they will never match the uniqueness of the bogs which they replace. Not for the individually important species, nor for the sense of wilderness that they evoke.

In a letter to its customers, *Fisons* says that the views of environmental groups which have criticised the deal 'are not representative'. These groups include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Friends of the Earth and Plantlife. There is a fair bit of expertise in that list, and a massive public membership. Now is the time for them to make their voices heard.

PETE BOWLER
259 South Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham S61 2NW

Announcements

Change of address of 'BB' binders The binders are now trading as London Journal Bindery and subscribers should send their issues for binding to their new address at Roslin Road, London W3 8DH (telephone: 081-752-0552).

Books in British BirdShop The following book has been added to the list this month:

*Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xi & xii.

Request

Reprints on owls Authors of articles or publications dealing with owls and wishing them to be listed in the second edition of a *Working Bibliography of Owls of the World* are asked to send reprints to: Professor Richard J. Clark, The Owl Bibliography, c/o Department of Biology, York College of Pennsylvania, York, PA 17405-7199, USA.

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

CITES and the wild-bird trade The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held its latest conference in Kyoto, Japan, during the first two weeks of March 1992. Governments from the 113 countries which have signed CITES sent delegations, and a huge number of wildlife conservation and trading organisations sent representatives. More than 1,400 people attended, and the accompanying media interest, particularly in issues linked with elephants, ivory, tuna, bears, rhinos and birds, made it a lively and fascinating event.

A number of resolutions were discussed relating to the trade in wild-caught birds. The UK government delegation, after discussions with staff from the RSPB, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Environmental Investigation Agency, supported the need for stronger measures to restrict trading in heavily traded species and greater control to limit the high mortality associated with much of the trade.

Resolutions dealing specifically with significant trade in bird species were dropped in favour of an all-embracing resolution on trade in animals. At the centre of the resolution was Article IV of CITES, which stipulates that any trade must be shown to be non-detrimental to the species involved. A new resolution, drafted and promoted by the UK delegation, included strong clauses calling for suspension of trade from countries which do not fulfil their obligations under Article IV. This was weakened by other countries during debate and the resulting proposal merely allowed for suspension of trade as appropriate.

Heavy opposition to any moves which would restrict trade came from exporting countries such as Guyana and Indonesia. Belgium and the Netherlands even took the opportunity to complain about the major airlines which have stopped carrying wild-caught birds.

A resolution relating to mortality in the wild-bird trade provided for the suspension of trade in wild-bird species with persistently high mortality rates following transport and quarantine. The UK strongly defended the need for a low maximum allowable mortality rate, but was eventually defeated. The final resolution merely allows for suspension of trade as appropriate where mortality is significantly high. Head of the UK delegation, Robin Sharp, summed up much of what is wrong with CITES when he stated: 'The history of this conference is littered with statements of generalities, with apologies later on for non-implementation.'

Some positive steps were taken to include several species on Appendix I of CITES, which calls for a total halt to trade in those species in this category. Goffin's Cockatoo *Cacatua goffini* has now been placed on Appendix I, having previously been on Appendix II, which is supposed to restrict trade to a sustainable level. With nearly 73,500 Goffin's Cockatoos exported from the Tanimbar Islands of Indonesia during 1983-89, it is little wonder that the future of the species causes great concern. The elevation of this and other species to Appendix I is merely a reflection of the fact that CITES has not been able to restrict trade as it sets out to do.

Too many species are being traded at unacceptable levels, with excessive mortality. As CITES appears to be unable to control this trade, the RSPB will continue to urge individual governments to introduce their own restrictions. As the biggest importers of wild-caught birds, the European Community, the USA and Japan must be the first to take the lead.

The conference hall was set next to a lake, allowing early-morning birdwatching and the chance to see Varied Tit *Parus varius*, Japanese Pygmy *Dendrocopos kizuki* and Japanese Green Woodpeckers *Picus awokera*, Japanese Wagtails *Motacilla grandis* and an obligingly tame White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*. Local birdwatchers from the Wild Bird Society of Japan arranged a day out for birders at Biwa-ko, the large lake north of Kyoto. The assembled group of 35 birders gave a multi-lingual cheer when the highlight of the day, an adult Steller's Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus* appeared. *(Contributed by Chris Harbard)*

Thailand converted? We must all be grateful that Thailand's National Assembly has at last passed new wildlife legislation which will enable it to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

(CITES). This action has come as a result of pressure applied by WWF UK. Thailand should be congratulated on going this far, but it will all be worthless unless the authorities now set about proper implementation of the regulations.

Welsh Conference 1992 The Welsh Ornithological Society held its fifth annual conference at Aberystwyth on 28th March 1992. Robin Prytherch opened the proceedings with fascinating interpretations of the territorial behaviour of Buzzards *Buteo buteo*, ingeniously illustrated by his own drawings. Al Venables provided a whistle-stop tour of the birds of Gwent using Atlas maps to relate species to the varied habitat of the county. David Saunders followed with an account of the bird history of Grassholm. Besides charting the growth of the huge colony of Gannets *Morus bassanus*, he related many of the epic efforts of the pioneering ornithologists who contributed so much to the extensive documentation he had assembled.

After lunch, Harold Grenfell presented a lively, sometimes hilarious, bird quiz which was won by Graham Williams. Graham received a prize donated by *Subbuteo Natural History Books*. Richard Meyer was due to follow with an account of the ecology of the Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* but was unavoidably unable to attend. He faxed through some of his information and Hywel Roderick nobly worked into the night so that he could present this, related to his own work on the species in Ceredigion. Twm Elias's animated account of the part played by birds in Celtic folklore was gripping: nobody who attended will ever hear the hoot of an owl with equanimity again! Terence Lambert ended the day with an absorbing talk on bird painting, illustrated by slides of his consummate bird portraits; his debate on the division between illustration and art added a new dimension for many of us who like to look at bird paintings. (*Contributed by Graham Rees*)

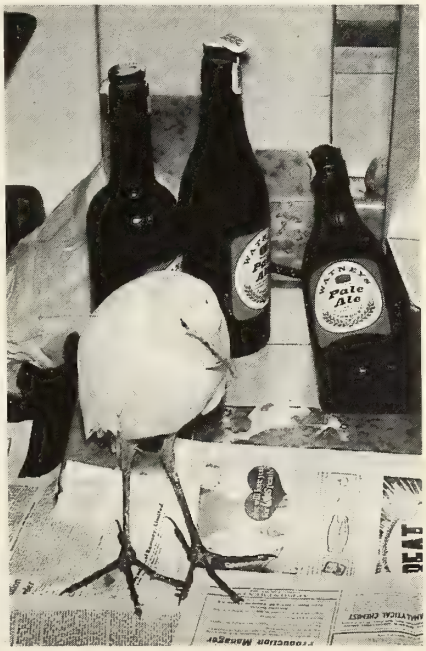
Yorkshire artist We are delighted to hear that Richard Whittlestone, runner-up in the *British Birds*/Young Ornithologists' Club cover-design competition in 1978 (*Brit. Birds* 71: 139, 367), is now an established and successful artist, producing cards and prints for the Wildlife & Country Gallery (Boroughbridge, York YO5 1AL; telephone 0423-324374).

Join Bruce Pearson Bird Illustrator of the Year winner (1984) Bruce Pearson is 'The Artist in the Natural World' at a five-day summer school during 3rd-7th August 1992. For details, write to Short Course Unit, Norfolk Institute of Art & Design, St George Street, Norwich NR3 1BB, phone Norwich (0603) 610561.

Gillmor exhibition From 20th September, the Wildlife Art Gallery in Suffolk will be holding the first one-man exhibition for over 20 years by our art consultant, Robert Gillmor. Actually it will be a two-person exhibition, as he is sharing the gallery with his wife, the landscape artist Susan Norman. She will be exhibiting pastel paintings of East Anglia. Most of Robert's pictures will be based on his visits to the north Norfolk coast, where he has spent much time in recent years at Titchwell and Cley. The exhibition runs until 4th October and is open daily, except Wednesdays, during 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.–5 p.m. Further details from the Wildlife Art Gallery, 70–71 High Street, Lavenham, Suffolk; tel. Lavenham (0787) 248562.

How big is a Cattle Egret? The reference to the Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* in an armchair (*Brit. Birds* 85: 49) prompted me to dive back in history and dig out an old slide of a Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (plate 154) which appeared on the Sussex/Hampshire border in

154. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Sussex, December 1964 (*Gordon R. Hopkins*)



winter 1964/65 and was taken into protective custody before it expired (*Brit. Birds* 58: 356). Note the objects used for size comparison: pint size, Imperial Palearctic standard. (*Contributed by Gordon R. Hopkins*)

AOS request The Army Ornithological Society is keen to hear from birdwatchers who are serving or retired members of the Army, their families, or civilians employed by the Army. The Society (formerly the Army Birdwatching Society) has close links with many other ornithological and conservation organisations and has, during its 32-year history, performed a great deal of valuable ornithological research. Details from: AOS, c/o MOD Lands 3, Block B 3/22, Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey.

Those Israeli beauties Following our request (*Brit. Birds* 85: 95) for an appropriate scientific name for 'Glamorous Reed Warbler', we have received the following suggestions: *Acrocephalus bimba* (Tony Soper), *Acrocephalus curvaceus* (M. H. Murphy), *Acrocephalus houri* (Anon.), *Acrocephalus salome* (Anon.) and, perhaps the subtlest of all, *Acrocephalus tripagosolornis* (F. M. Gauntlett).

Is 57 the record? Following our comment concerning the late Horace Alexander's 82 years as a *BB* subscriber (*Brit. Birds* 84: 524), we have heard from Stephen Marchant of Moruya, NSW, Australia, who started with vol. 30 (1936-37), no. 1, which is 57 years, and counting. Can anyone beat that?

New County Recorder D. H. Ball, 254 Goldington Road, Bedford MK40 3EB, has taken over from Paul Trodd as County Recorder for Bedfordshire.

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 15th May to 12th June 1992

These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Tacumshin (Co. Wexford), 20th May. **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* Cahirciveen (Co. Kerry), 27th May (first in Ireland for over 20 years). **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* Hampstead (Greater London), 31st May. **Red-footed Falcon** *F. vespertinus* Major influx: over 100. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Four. **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* Portland Bill (Dorset), 31st May. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* Belfast Harbour Estate (Co. Down), 2nd-3rd June. **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Sidlesham Ferry (West Sussex), 21st-23rd May; Unst (Shetland), 25th May. **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* Ouse Washes (Cambridgeshire), 24th May. **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* Musselburgh Ash Lagoons (Lothian), 4th June. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 27th May. **Brünnich's Guillemot** *Uria lomvia* St Kilda (Western Isles), 27th May. **Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Tacumshin, 8th June (plus 15-20 in England). **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* Great Saltee (Co. Wexford), 1st June. **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* Influx: up to 40. **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* North Ronaldsay, 25th May. **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka* St Kilda, 28th May. **Black-eared Wheatear** *O. hispanica* Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork), 26th May. **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* Fair Isle (Shetland), 9th-10th June. **Great Reed Warbler** *A. arundinaceus* Four. **Booted Warbler** *Hippolais caligata* Hartlepool Headland (Cleveland), 7th-8th June; Spurn (Humberside), 11th-12th June. **Icterine Warbler** *H. icterina* Large influx: up to 150. **Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda* Spurn, 8th-9th June (potential second for Britain & Ireland). **Spectacled Warbler** *S. conspicillata* Filey Country Park (North Yorkshire), 24th-31st May (potential first for Britain & Ireland). **Subalpine Warbler** *S. cantillans* Ten. **Sardinian Warbler** *S. melanocephala* North Ronaldsay, 25th-27th May; Formby Point (Merseyside), 28th-31st May. **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Eleven. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Huge fall on 27th May, including 350 on Fair Isle, over 400 on North Ronaldsay and 70 on Sanday (Orkney). **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* About 150. **Lesser Grey Shrike** *L. minor* Hook Head (Co. Wexford), 1st June. **Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus* Trimley St Mary (Suffolk), 6th June (potential first for Britain & Ireland). **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* Trimley St Mary, 31st May to 8th June. **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* St Martin's (Scilly); 18th-23rd May; Gwithian (Cornwall) 20th May; Trimley St Mary, 4th-6th June; Llanarmon-yn-lal (Clywd), 9th-10th June; four, Fair Isle, 9th-10th June.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111

(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be **PREPAID**
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(including 17½% VAT)
£2.94 a line—average of 6 words
£9.98 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is £1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions for the price of 2
6 insertions for the price of 4

Copy Date
August Issue
July 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm and HarperCollins — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Clev 5 miles Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390

(BB963)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB097)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB213)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB160)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB169)

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey. Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB171)

GRACIOUS GEORGIAN HOUSE in private grounds. Central to the Yorkshire Dales, Gouthwaite, Scar and Angram reservoirs. High standard of accommodation. Private bathrooms. Interesting home cooking. Friendly quiet atmosphere. E.T.B. 3 crown commended. Residential licence. Ideal birdwatching area. Sae: brochure: Mrs P. B. Garforth, Grassfields Country House Hotel, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate. Tel: Harrogate 711412. (BB088)

GARA MILL. Slapton, Devon. Self-catering for 2-7 in secluded four acres overlooking river and woods. Eight detached cedar lodges plus 2 CH flats in 16th c. cornmill. Near Slapton Ley. TVs. Dogs welcome. Free brochure: (0803) 770295. (BB987)

ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB208)

SCOTLAND

ISLE OF MULL. A stable converted into two warm, comfortable flats. Frachadil Farm, Calgary. Tel: 068 84 265 or (0453) 833323. (BB037)

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503. (BB184)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, whitesand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

ISLE OF GIGHA, Argyllshire. For a holiday surrounded by natural beauty, sandy beaches, exotic gardens, birds, wild flowers, good food and comfortable accommodation. Also self catering accommodation. Please contact Mrs. McSporran, Post Office House 058-35 251. (BB036)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal country hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB163)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB183)

BOAT OF GARTEN, OLD FERRYMAN'S HOUSE. BB £13, DBB £21, PL £3, Bird register. Open fire in sitting room. Few minutes walk to RSPB reserve. Tel: 047983 370. (BB182)

THE OSPREY VILLAGE OF BOAT OF GARTEN. Farmhouse accommodation, B.B. or B.B.E.M. also s/c house to sleep 5/6 persons. Clark, Dochlaggie, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire. Tel. 047 983242 (BB214)

WALES

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest-House standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB190)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB205)

WEST WALES smallholding. BB/EM or self cater in our cosy cottage for 2/4 or luxury 6 berth caravan. Ideal for Pembs Islands, National Park Tregaron. WTB approved. Tel: 0239 831265. (BB209)

OVERSEAS

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB146)

AUSTRALIA, CAIRNS, JULATTEN. At Kingfisher Park we provide accommodation and camping facilities in a rainforest sanctuary for native birds and animals. We are central to a variety of habitats and cater for the interests and enthusiasms of birdwatchers and naturalists. Geoff and Sandra Nicholson, Kingfisher Park, Rex Hwy, Julatten, Queensland, Australia. Tel. (070) 941 263. (BB197)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237
100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS
'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
SPECIALIST ADVISER – ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)
ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB204)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1008 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

ERYRI BIRDS



Come birdwatching with us in 1992

S. SPAIN SEPTEMBER
N. GREECE SEPTEMBER

Informal small group holidays with experienced guides

Send for a brochure to:
Colin Thomas,
24 Tan-y-Bwlch Rd, Llanllechid,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
Tel: (0248) 600167

(BB186)

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

THE GAMBIA: paradise for birdwatchers. Basic, clean accom. in prime forest/shore area, transport and packed meals, extended trips with Mass Cham, foremost Gambian ornithologist. Interested – please call Gee Cross Travel. 061-368 7005. Eve: 061-367 8335. (BB206)

NEW ZEALAND

For the best of NZ birding, write Nature Quest New Zealand, Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand for custom departures or details of self drive consultancy.
Tel: & Fax: (03) 489 8444

(BB031)

WildWings

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£71
M. EAST	£139
CARIBBEAN	£369
C. & S. AMERICA	£399
AFRICA	£129
N. AMERICA	£183
ASIA	£280
AUS/NZ	£599

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2750 pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST., BRISTOL. BS1 3AU MON - FRI.
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757

ABTA 65077

(BB193)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA – Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours. 1 Simons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING ADVICE LINE

'PLANNING A BIRDWATCHING TRIP ABROAD'

Thomas Cook Travel

OFFER YOU A TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS LINE:
02572 62317

Ask for Keith Hiller experienced Birdwatcher.
Details available include: * Worldwide Airfares * Car Hire * Package Holidays * Ferries * Overseas Rail * Visas * Health * Accommodation * Cruises * Foreign Money * Individuals or groups catered for.
ABTA number 29600 (BB117)

BIRD INFORMATION

The Paging Service for Birders
RARE BIRD ALERT
Tel. 0800 246 246
New cost saving options now available

(BB207)

PERSONAL

WEALTHY AMERICAN GENTLEMAN, age 57, handsome, athletic, and avid birder, seeks attractive non-smoking female, age 30-50, also ardent birder, as guest companion for birdwatching holiday to tropical America. Send letter/photo to Donald Mann, P.O. Box 1014, Highland Park, IL. USA 60035. (BB195)

BIRD REPORT

OUTER HEBRIDES BIRD REPORT FOR 1991. Comprehensive Report plus rarities reports, Dave Davenport with a full description of Skua Passage off Balranald, Birdwatching on St Kilda, Gazeteer etc. Price £4.50 inc p&p from Tim Dix, 2 Drimsdale, S. Uist PA81 5RT. Cheques made out to OHBR. (BB187)

BIRDLINE SOUTH EAST
1991 REPORT



now available, containing;

- Systematic list
- Full colour photographs
- Illustrated article by Chris Heard on the identification of Rock and Water Pipits
- Guide to birdwatching access at London Reservoirs.

For your copy send £5 to: Birdline South East, PO Box 481, London SE20 8LZ

(BB149)

WILTSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990. £3.75 inc. p&p from N. Pleass, 22 Ferrers Drive, Swindon, Wilts SN5 6HJ. (BB194)

ORKNEY BIRD REPORT 1991 available from Vishabreck, Evie, Orkney. £2.85 including p&p. (BB200)

BOOKS

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE envelope to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel. 0433 630137. (BB109)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407

(BB192)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £5.95 to:
Coxton Publications,
Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington,
Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP

(BB159)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria. CA10 3JP (Tel. 09315-282). (BB066)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB151)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request
Tel: 0352 770881
Fax: 0352 771890

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS
SUBBUTEO
NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd, North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

SHROPSHIRE BREEDING ATLAS. Based upon fieldwork 1985-1991. Maps plus text and illustrations for 129 species. Chapters on habitats, populations, fieldwork. 204 pages. £9.95 + £1 p&p from Shropshire O.S., 6 St Annes Road, Collegefields, SHREWSBURY, SY3 6AU (BB196)

SEYCHELLES. A Birdwatchers' Guide to Seychelles by Skerrett & Bullock. £8.75. Prion Ltd (Perry). From bookshops or N.H.B.S. Tel: (0803) 865913. (BB201)

FOR SALE

BIRD JOURNAL BACKNUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB144)

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002 (BB145)

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp. Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159 SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845

(BB164)

POYSER "Hen Harrier". Offers, 0326 240919. (BB215)

CLUBMAN 500mm f8 lens. Lens surface in excellent condition, unscratched, £35. Tel. 081-472 1123. (BB198)

NEW NATURALIST monographs – a complete set – will consider splitting. Sae for details. M. B. Gray, 26 Chaucer Road, Bath BA2 4QX. Tel: 0225 315879. (BB212)

GOLDEN OLDIES
by
AVIAN PHOTOS

Dave Cottridge, Tim Loseby, David Tipling

Avian have gone back through the archives to produce a collection of the very best photos of rare birds dating back to 1980. All are 6 x 4 colour prints priced at £1.50 each, add 30p p&p.

Send SAE for Golden Oldies and current catalogue to David Tipling, 99 Noah's Ark, Kemsing Park, Kemsing, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PD.

(BB166)

AT LAST! A CHECKLIST RELEVANT TO BIRDERS. The total British & Irish list is ordered by relative abundance, not taxonomic order. Contains details on record totals, breeding, migrational and wintering data. 2.25 incl. p&p. Cheques to: Ivan Lakin, 33 Carmarthen Ave, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants. PO6 2AG. (BB199)

B.B. for sale 1960-1966 incl. Bound brown cloth. Offers. Phone 0442-253994. (BB202)

PODSTRAP – the 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. p&p from: Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB203)

B.W.P. Vols 1, 4 (RSPB) and 5, very good condition. £50.00 each or £130.00 for 3. Contact Martin Garner. Tel: 0582 20082. (BB210)

TELESCOPE Nickel Supra 15-60 x 60 zoom, in good working order. Original leather case. £35 or £30 if buyer collects. Phone 0483 730323 (Woking, Surrey). (BB211)

WANTED

PETER SCOTT Original painting required. 0524 701801. (BB148)

WALKERS

Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods – SLRs – compacts

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * OPTOLYTH * ADLERBLICK**

OPTOLYTH AND OPTICRON NOW IN STOCK

SPECIAL JULY PRICES
KOWA – ZEISS – LEITZ
TSN1 or 2 & 30x **£400** Zeiss 7 x 42 **£589**
Leitz 7 x 42 **£599** Pentax 10 x 42 **£160**
Russian 7 x 35 **£27**, 10 x 50 **£30**, 20 x 60 **£59**

WALKER LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST (D116)
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 7 July 1992

329 **New Editorial Board member**

330 **Rarities Committee news and announcements** *P. G. Lansdown and the Rarities Committee*

333 **Mystery photographs** *179* Eleonora's Falcon *Dave Odell*

334 **Points of view** *18* Should exotics be condemned or cherished? *Derek Goodwin*

336 **Product reports** Swift Viewmaster telescope *Dr R. J. Chandler*

337 **Blackburnian Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic** *David Saunders and Mrs Shirley Saunders*

344 **Breeding-range and population changes of waders in the former Soviet Union** *Dr Pavel S. Tomkovich*

366 **Monthly marathon**

366 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

367 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

Review

368 'Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar' by Clive Finlayson *Dr Ernest F. J. Garcia*

368 **Short reviews**

369 Seventy-five years ago . . .

370 **Lesser Scaup: new to the Western Palearctic** *J. J. Holian and J. E. Fortey*

Notes

376 First-brood juvenile Great Crested Grebe 'helping' second-brood chicks *Dr P. Gipson and Richard Orton*

377 Harrier-like hunting technique of female Sparrowhawks *J. B. Kemp*

378 Lesser Black-backed Gull apparently begging from Great Black-backed Gull *D. Warden*

378 Woodpigeon attempting to feed from suspended peanut-holder *Nigel Cleere*

378 Barn Owls and Jackdaws sharing nest site *Major A. J. Crease*

379 Barn Owls and Tawny Owls nesting close together *Andy Dowell and Geoff Shaw*

379 Rapid occupation of tree nursery by Woodlarks *Robin Griffiths*

380 Woodlarks feeding under cover *A. M. Jewels and Ian Kendall*

380 Mistle Thrush singing in flight at 60 m *John H. Smart*

381 Bark-tearing by Goldcrest *David M. Wilkinson*

381 Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tits and Coal Tits eating algae *The late J. A. G. Barnes*

381 Possible sap-sucking by Long-tailed Tits and Blue Tits *A. J. Macfarlane*

382 Blue Tits drinking sap *S. K. Woolley*

Letter

382 Looking 'Fisons' gift horse in the mouth *Pete Bowler*

Announcements

383 Change of address of 'BB' binders

383 Books in British BirdShop

Request

383 Reprints on owls *Professor Richard J. Clark*

SPECIAL STANLEY CRAMP MEMORIAL SUPPLEMENT
pp. 387-414, inserted in centre between pp. 356 and 357

384 **News and comment** *Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett*

386 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 337 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dave Nurney*); 344 Marsh Sandpiper and Black-tailed Godwit (*Dan Powell*); 370 Lesser Scaup, Tufted Duck and Pochards (*Andrew Birch*)

Front cover: Coots (*Michael Webb*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 4 in January issue for procedure)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 8 August 1992

BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
13 AUG 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY



Bird Illustrator of the Year

Sponsored by
Kowa
telescopes

Great Knot: new to Britain and Ireland
Long-toed Stint: new to Britain and Ireland
Identification of Surf Scoter
European news

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, R. A. Hume, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £45.80, IR£53.50 or $86.50. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £37.20, IR£43.60 or $70.00; personal airmail outside Europe £62.50, IR£72.95 or $118.00. Single back copies £4.75, IR£5.50 or $9.00.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984); names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford

BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
13 AUG 1992

204 HIGH STREET,
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 081 449 1445
Phone 081 441 7748
Fax 081 440 9999

RSPB Business Supporter

in focus

THE BINOCULAR and TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR

EGLETON NATURE RESERVE
RUTLAND WATER

Fri 4th, Sat 5th, Sun 6th September

MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 0485 210101

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

FORTHCOMING FIELD EVENTS

We are pleased to offer our customers the best viewing facilities around the UK at RSPB, WWT and County Trusts' Reserves. Demonstrations are usually from hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10 am - 4 pm. For your convenience we advise appointments for the two days which can be arranged by contacting either shop.

BLACKTOFTS SANDS HUMBERSIDE
Sat 1st & Sun 2nd August

CLEY VISITOR CENTRE NORFOLK
Tue 4th Aug., August Bank Hols Sat 29th, Sun 30th & Mon 31st August Tue 1st September

SLIMBRIDGE WWT GLOS.
Sat 8th & Sun 9th Aug Sat 12th & Sun 13th Sept Sat 10th & Sun 11th Oct

ABBERTON NR. COLCHESTER ESSEX
Sun 9th August

LEE VALLEY FISHERS GREEN
Sun 9th August Sun 13th September Sun 11th October

ARUNDEL WWT
Sat 15th & Sun 16th August

MEDWAY WILDLIFE WEEKEND RIVERSIDE PARK GILLINGHAM
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd August

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY DORSET
Sun 23rd August

DUNGENESS RSPB KENT
Sat 29th & Sun 30th August

FRAMPTON BOSTON, LINCS.
Sun 13th September

SWILLINGTON INGS, NR. LEEDS
Sat 19th & Sun 20th September

FINGRINHOE NR. COLCHESTER ESSEX
Sun 20th September

LODMOOR RSPB DORSET
Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

LLANELLI WWT DYFED
Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

BAUSCH & LOMB £
Elite 7x36BGAP 599.00
Elite 8x42BGAP 659.00
Elite 10x42BGAP 659.00
Custom 8x36B 229.00
Custom 10x40BGA 249.00
Legacy 8x24 89.00
Elite 22x60BGA 309.00
Elite 15x45x60BGAP 369.00
Elite 77 365.00
Elite 77ED 775.00
20xWA 149.00
30x 135.00
20-60xZoom 198.00
Case 33.95
Photo Adapter 159.00

LEICA £
Trinovid 8x20BC 199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC 239.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA 239.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA 255.00
Case for Mini 16.00
Trinovid 7x42BA 649.00
Trinovid 8x42BA 649.00
Trinovid 10x42BA 649.00

CARL ZEISS £
Designer 8x20BT*P 295.00
Designer 10x25BT*P 319.00
Dialyt 8x20BP 249.00
Dialyt 10x25BP 269.00
Dialyt 8x20BGAP 315.00
Dialyt 8x30BGATP 529.00
Dialyt 7x42BGATP 639.00
Dialyt 10x40BGATP 639.00
Dialyt 10x40BT 689.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT 769.00
15x60 Porro GAT 1190.00
20x60 BGA 2850.00

ACCESSORIES £
Rainguard 8.00
Eye Cups (set) 16.00
Eye Cups Hard (set) 16.00
Lanyard 5.00
Wide Lanyard 15.00
Spare Case from 19.00

NIKON £
7x20CF III 69.00
9x25CF III 79.00
8x23CF II 85.00
10x25CF II 89.00
9x20DCF 135.00
10x25DCF 150.00
8x32BGA 379.00
10X42BGA 399.00
8x40DCF 539.00
7x35E 199.00
8x30E 229.00
10x35E 249.00
7x 12x24DCF 329.00
Fieldscope II
10x60 304.00
10x45x60 379.00
Fieldscope EDII
10x60 555.00

20x45x60 629.00
15x & 20x 75.00
30x & 40x 75.00
60x 75.00
20x45x Zoom 147.00
Hoya MC Filte r 20.00
Rubber Hood 10.00
Photo Kit 168.00
Stay-on Case 45.00
Spotting Scope
20x60GA 199.00
15x45x60GA 265.00
20x 34.95
15-45x Zoom 100.00

SWIFT £
Trilyte 7x42BGA 145.00
Trilyte 8x42BGA 148.00
Trylite 10x42BGA 150.00
Audubon HR5 8.5x44 239.00
Audubon 7x35BGA 329.00
Viewmaster 60 Body 149.00
15x45x Zoom 49.00
20x 20.00
Case 15.00

QUESTAR £
Field Model 3 ½" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with 50x-80x Hood. Case 2200.00
30x-50x 130.00
80x-130x 130.00
Erector Prism 289.00

OPTOLYTH £
Alpin 8x30BGA 227.00
Alpin 7x42BGA 257.00
Alpin 8x40BGA 246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA 249.00
Alpin 10X50BGA 268.00
Touring 8x32BGA 395.00
Touring 7x42BGA 445.00
Touring 10x40BGA 445.00
TBS HD Body 549.00
TBG HD Body 549.00
TBS 80 Body 390.00
TBG 80 Body 390.00
20xWA 122.00
30xWA 77.00
30xWW (new) 135.00
40xWA (new) 77.00
22x-60xZoom 159.00
Soft Case 29.00
Hard Case 35.00
Stay on Case for TBS/TBG 45.00

KOWA £
TS-601 219.00
TS-602 199.00
20xWA 64.00
25x 54.00
27xW 94.00
20x-60xZoom 109.00
Case 22.95
TSN-1 316.00
TSN-2 316.00
TSN-3 636.00
TSN-4 636.00

20x-60x Zoom 169.00
20xWA 109.00
25x 69.00
30xWA 139.00
40x 69.00
60x 119.00
77x 109.00
Skua Case 39.95
Rear Dust Dome 15.00
Spare OG Cover 6.00
27xWA (Screwfit) 59.00
Screw Bay Adaptor 20.00
Case for TSN 24.95
Photo Adapt 800mm 129.00
Photo Adapt 1200mm 199.00

OPTICRON £
Vega II 8x30 49.95
Vega II 8x40 54.95
DIOPTRON 8x32 122.00
DIOPTRON 10x42 125.00
DIOPTRON10X50 135.00
HR 8X32 MC 152.00
HR 7X42 MC 157.00
HR 8X42 MC 155.00
HR 10X42 MC 162.00
HR 10X50MC 178.00
HR Body 80mm 269.00
30xWA 33.00
27x-80x Zoom 85.00
HR Body 22x & Case 179.95
HR GA, 22x & Case 189.95
HR 45, 22x & Case 219.95
HR Body 20x-60x & Case 219.95
HR GA20x-60x & Case 229.95
HR 45 20x-60x & Case 249.95
25x, 40, x22xWA 32.00
Classic IF60 110.00
18xWA 24.00
25x 24.00
25xHP 27.00
18x-40x Zoom 61.00
Classic IF75 140.00
22xWA 24.00
30x 27.00
22x-47x Zoom 61.00
Piccolo 128.00
Eye Pieces from 29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60 355.00
Piccolo ED 20x-60x60 399.00
Photo Kits from 30.00
Cases for scopes 15.00
Macro Monocular 50.00

ROSS £
Cavendish 8x42B 139.95
Hanover 10x42B 149.95
Regent 8x42B 169.95
Kensington 10x42B 179.95

REDFIELD £
7x35BA 249.00
10x50BA 299.00
20-45x60GA 299.95

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS £
Opticron 20x80 390.00
Opticron 30x80 395.00

SWAROVSKI £
10x40 Diana 372.00
7x30SLC 353.00
8x30SLC 365.00
8x20B 220.00
AT80 Body 547.00
22xWA 72.00
32xWA 124.00
20x-60x Zoom 164.00
Case 93.00

BUSHNELL £
Spacemaster Body 145.00
S/Master Body ED 299.00
S/Master GA Body 178.00
15x-45x Zoom 79.00
22xWA 32.00
Case 20.00
Photo Kit 30.00

VELBON £
Victory 350 39.95
D-500 59.95
D-600 69.95
D-700 79.95

CULLMANN £
Hide Clamp 54.95
Shoulder Pod 29.95
Q/R System 10.95
Q/R Plate 5.95

SLIK £
Master D-3 89.95

MANFROTTO
290/128 95.00
2908/128 99.00
144/128 105.00
144B/128 109.00
Tripod Strap 14.95
Q/R Plate 5.95
Monopod 079B 29.95
Monopod134B 29.95

BENBO
Trekker with Cullman
Video Head 89.95
Trekker Monopod 29.95
95 Monopod 34.95

ACCESSORIES
Car Window Mount 26.00
Universal Mount 26.00
Hide Clamp 38.00
Rainguards from 3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth 3.00
Tripod Strap 6.95
Lanyards from 4.00
Dust Away 3.95
Double eyepiece Case 9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case 24.50

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON SELECTED ZEISS, LEICA, B&L, KOWA etc. Ask for details.

"IN FOCUS EQUIPMENT GUIDE" FULLY ILLUSTRATED 82 PAGE PAPER BACK 1st EDTION £3.95

CARE PLAN
At a cost of just £15 any new instrument can be covered for a 3 year period from date of purchase. In the event of equipment failure for whatever reason it will be rectified by ourselves at no charge. Ask for details.

PERSONAL CALLERS
Can choose and select from our comprehensive range of equipment. We are a completely independent company whose only concern is that our customer selects the correct instrument for their personal needs.

MAIL ORDER
Just add £2.00 to help towards P&P and insurance and your order will be sent the same day we receive your cheque - all goods supplied on 14 days approval upon receipt of full remittance.

PHONE ORDERS
Discuss your requirements with our technical staff and orders placed with Access or Visa cards will be despatched same day.

SECOND HAND
Instruments always available; turnover is fast but we now produce a comprehensive list, phone or write.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition scopes and bins.

HOW TO FIND US (Norfolk)
We are 500 yards east of the RSPB Reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car parking.

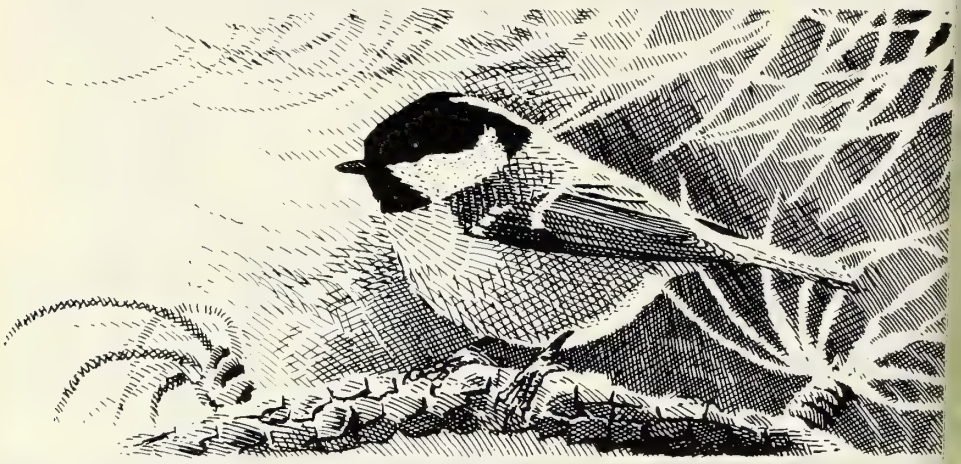
HOW TO FIND US (Barnet)
We are 10 mins from M25 and AIM motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECOND HAND SCOPES ASK FOR DETAILS

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK At Briarfields Hotel, Titchwell when goods to the value of £400 or over are purchased.

AS THE UK'S NUMBER ONE BIRDWATCHING OPTICS SUPPLIER IN FOCUS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE COUNTY BIRD RACE AND THE BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR. AS A RESULT OF THESE AND OTHER VENTURES IN FOCUS HAS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED OVER £30,000 TO LOCAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BIRD CONSERVATION OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS.

Bird Illustrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Kowa Telescopes



Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)

Gordon Trunkfield – Bird Illustrator of the Year 19

Attracting entries from the very best British artists, the Bird Illustrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Kowa Telescopes, provides both an opportunity to display their undoubted talent and, for some, an introduction to a new and satisfying career in the world of illustrating the vast number of ornithological books published today.

Kowa are delighted to sponsor, for the fifth successive year, this most prestigious competition and to congratulate John Gale of Reading, Berkshire, the winner of the 1992 competition.

Visitors to Birdfair '92 at Rutland Water from 4th to 6th September 1992, who purchase a Kowa telescope, may reserve a free copy of the forthcoming Kowa 1993 BIY calendar as a continuing reminder of the excellent standard of entries in the BIY competition.

Kowa A superb image

Officially appointed distributor for Kowa Telescopes
Pyser-SGI Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HA (D159)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 8 AUGUST 1992

'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and 'The Richard Richardson Award'

Sponsored by
Kowa
telescopes

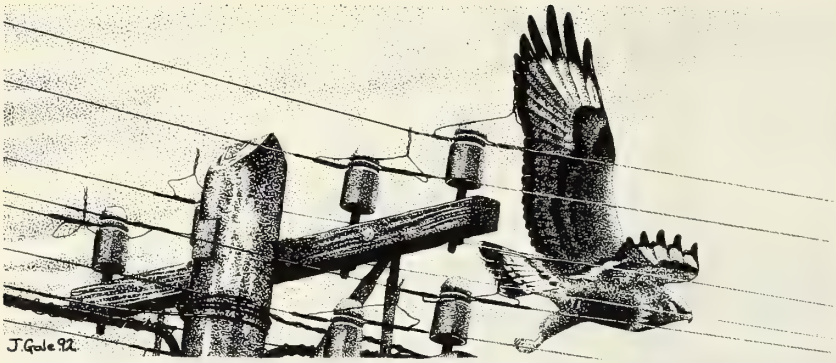


In the 14 years of judging the Bird Illustrator of the Year competitions, we have looked at nearly 3,400 illustrations, and it has been fascinating to see the steady rise in standards, the advance of individual artists and the development of techniques and media. There is no slackening of talent, and the continued faith of our sponsors, *Kowa* telescopes, has been well justified; we are grateful for their financial support and their extremely worthwhile prizes. The winners were as follows:

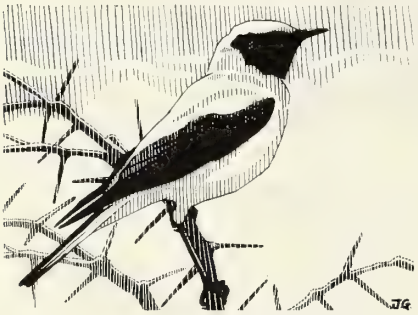
BIRD ILLUSTRATOR OF THE YEAR, 1992
1st John Gale (Reading, Berkshire)
2nd James P. Smith (Sheffield, South Yorkshire)
3rd Jan Wilczur (London)
RUNNER-UP Stephen Message (Cranbrook, Kent)

THE RICHARD RICHARDSON AWARD
1st Antony S. Disley (Blackburn, Lancashire)
RUNNERS-UP Nicola Greenwood (Leigh-on-Sea, Essex) and John Wright (Nether Hall, Leicestershire)

The number of participating artists was, at 53, lower than last year, and we missed the work of several familiar names who have been moving steadily up the ranks in recent competitions. We would also like to see more entries in future for The Richard Richardson Award, made to artists under the age of 21. The reduction in numbers did not, however, mean a lowering of standards, and our short list included, in addition to those names above, Ernie Leahy, Jim Lyes, Dan Powell and Gordon Trunkfield.



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*, March 1992 (*John Gale*)

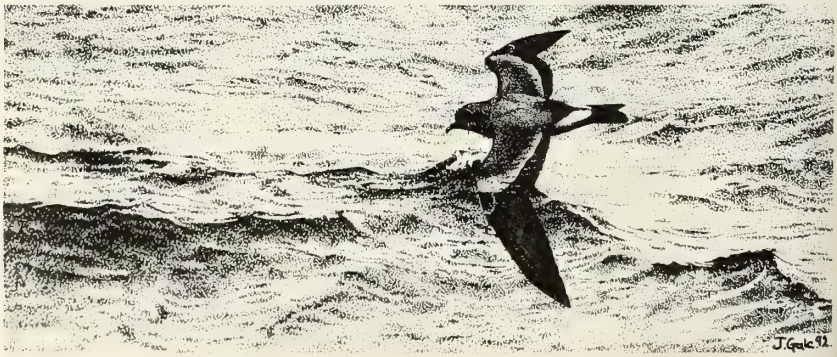


Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*, March 1992 (*John Gale*)

The final judging was as difficult as ever, with much detailed discussion on the accuracy and techniques of individual drawings. It was only by scoring each drawing that a final order for the winner emerged. John Gale has not been a regular competitor and neither he nor the artists placed second and third have appeared in the winners' lists before.

The entries for The Richard Richardson Award, though small in number, were good in quality. It was a second win for Antony Disley as he had also been placed first in 1990. John Wright shows his consistency as he was one of the runners-up in this award in the two preceding years. These two artists are surely destined for higher things.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, March 1992 (*John Gale*)





White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*, Israel (*James P. Smith*)

We were delighted that Nicola Greenwood has arrived among the top names and hope she will encourage other female artists to follow in the steps of Hilary Burn and the late Laurel Tucker.

An award which gives the judges much pleasure to make is the PJC Award, created by David Cook in memory of his first wife, Pauline. It is for a drawing of individual merit and gives us the chance, if we so wish, to commend artists from outside the winning group. This year we selected several drawings from which to make our final choice. All had striking qualities and included one by Nicola Greenwood of Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*. The four over which we lingered longest, however, were Andrew Mortley's beautifully characterised and silhouetted group of Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Pete Sewell's Rooks *Corvus frugilegus*, John Walters' lively bathing Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* and a stylised drawing of a Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* by Richard Fowling. The last of these received the prize for the effective way he has suggested the heat and light of the desert by using the differing strength of vertical lines to create tones and textures. This style worked particularly well for a small and decorative 'fill-in' drawing and in no way lost the character of the bird or its ornithological verisimilitude.

The group of drawings by John Gale, which won him the title Bird Illustrator of the Year, was of a widely differing variety of species and showed considerable technical ability and knowledge of the birds, revealed by excellent

Pochards *Aythya ferina* (*J. P. P. Wilczur*)





Male and female Dead Sea Sparrows *Passer moabiticus*, near Yotvata, Israel (*James P. Smith*)

drawing. We were surprised to learn, subsequent to the judging, that he has received no formal art training, and that his technique is wholly self taught. John Gale's Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, which will form the frontispiece to this volume of *BB* and which appears on the cover of this issue, is a fine, strong composition, making it an ideal cover design.

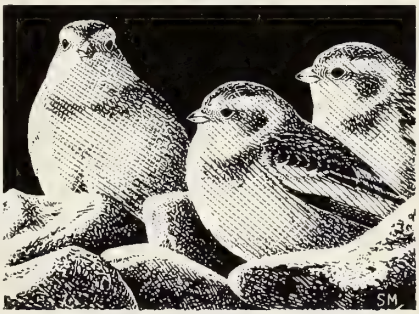
James Smith's drawings included two strong cover designs. One, of Levant Sparrowhawks *Accipiter brevipes* circling over the Eilat mountains, will appear on a later issue. His handling of tone and texture is very effective.

The drawings by Jan Wilczur have regularly caught our attention and it was high time he reached the winning frame. The relationship of bird and vegetation in his drawings of Pochards *Aythya ferina* and Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* was particularly satisfying and decorative.



Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (*J. P. P. Wilczur*)

The runner-up, Stephen Message, is a most competent artist who won the Richard Richardson Award in 1989.



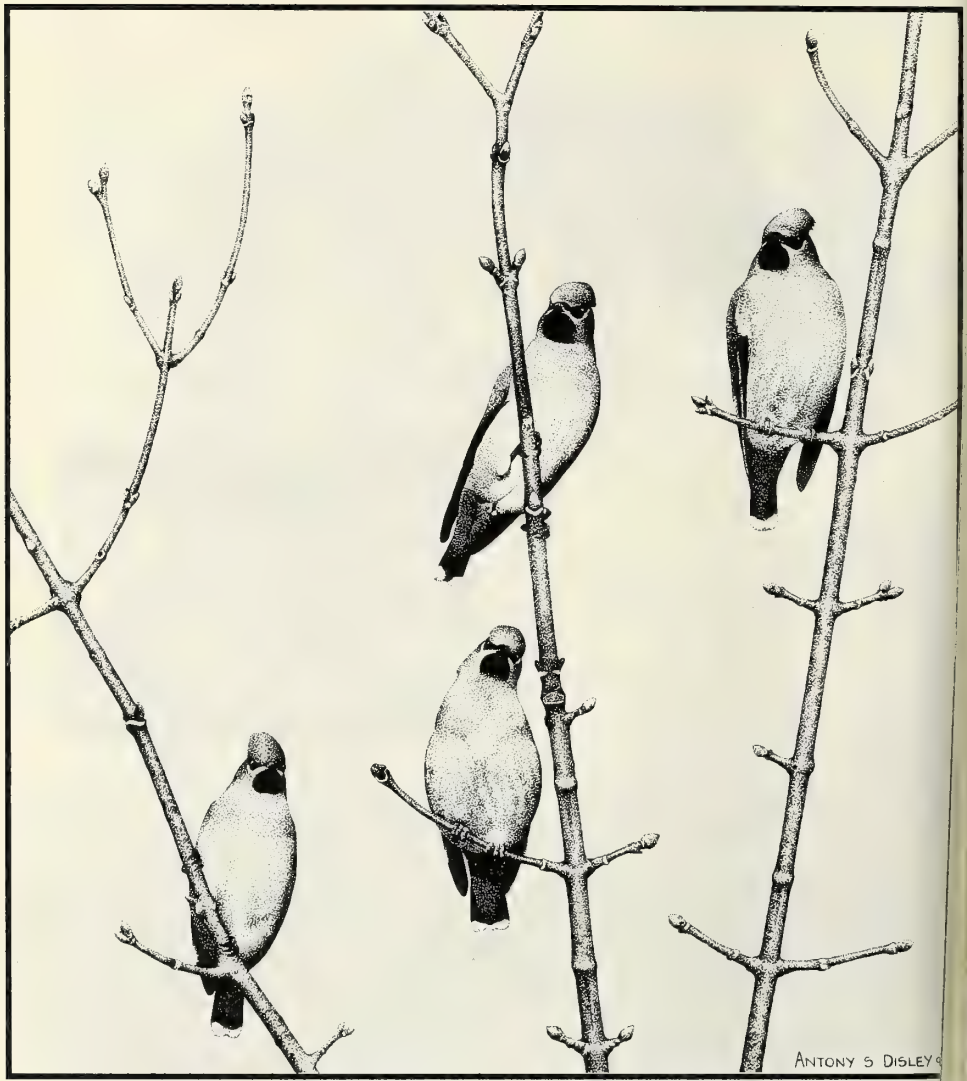
Snow Buntings *Plectrophenax nivalis*, Sandwich Bay, Kent (*Stephen Message*)

Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*, Seasalter, Kent, November 1991 (*Stephen Message*)

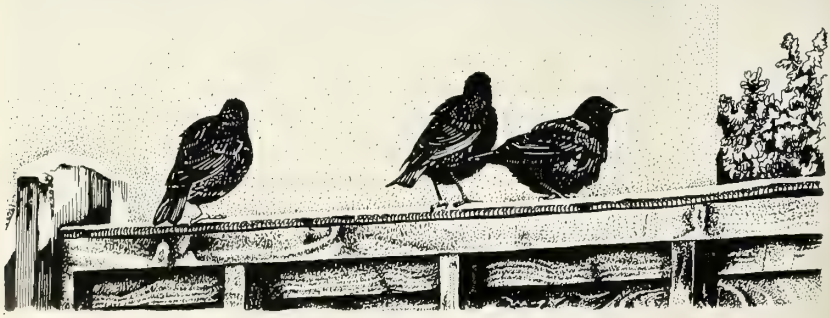


Antony Disley deserved his second Richard Richardson Award for drawings which captured the character of the species and integrated them happily into their environment. Nicola Greenwood and John Wright were close seconds, both producing drawings of excellent technique. Nicola's Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* was perhaps not quite so well drawn as the tree in which it perched, some rather odd shading on its underparts spoiling the fully rounded look which is so characteristic of the species.

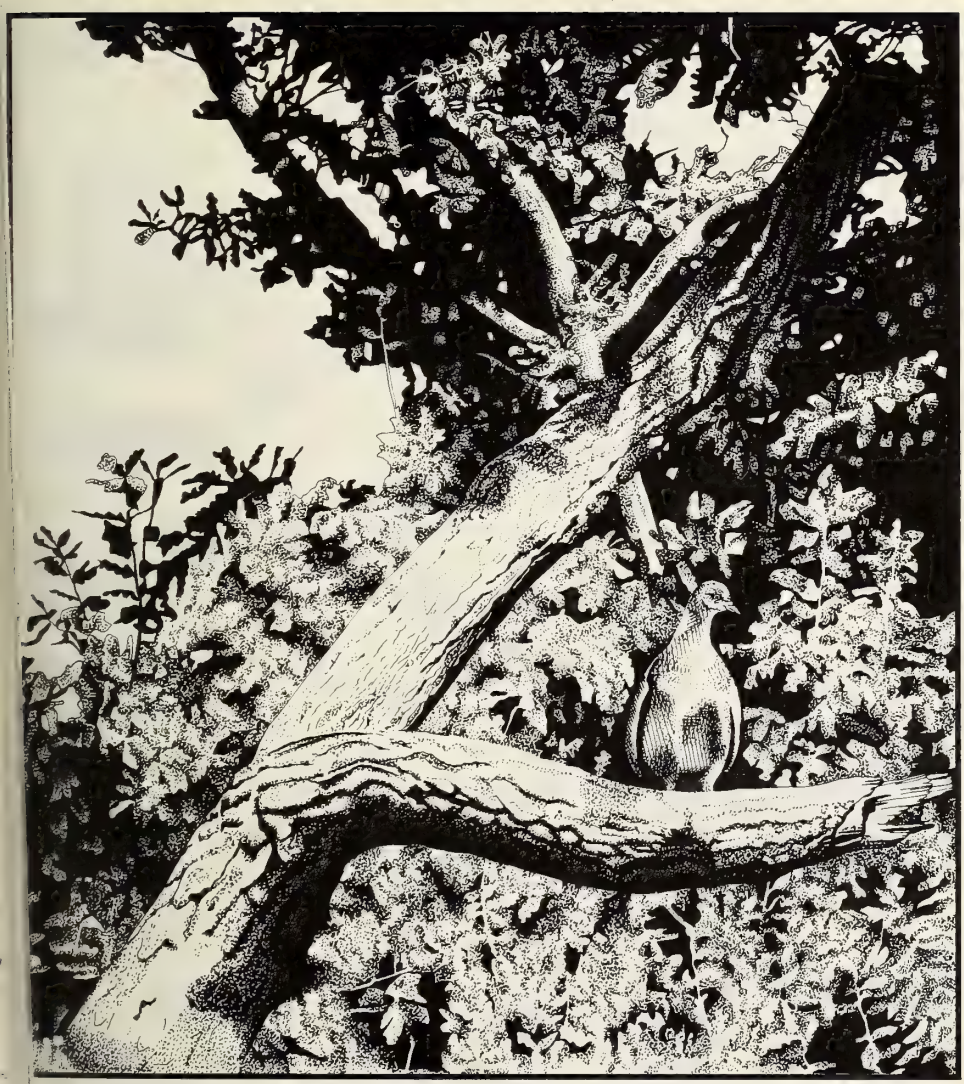
Most of the cover drawings for *BB* over the next 12 months will come from this year's entries and include some powerful and varied designs. Richard Allen's strong, stylised drawing of a Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, standing amid wet mud, can be contrasted with Jim Lyes' remarkably detailed drawing



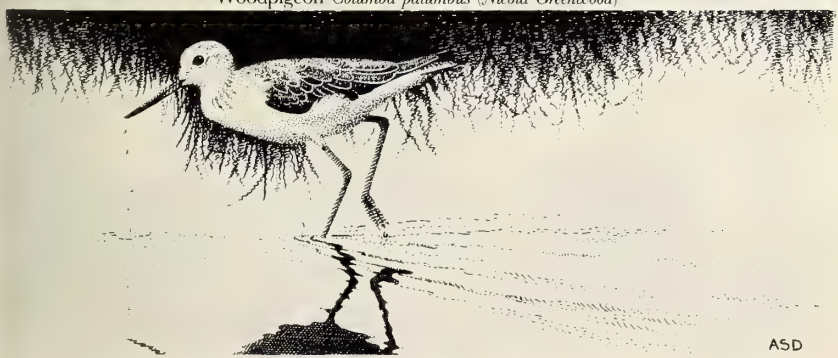
Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus*, Preston Docks, Lancashire (*Antony S. Disley*)



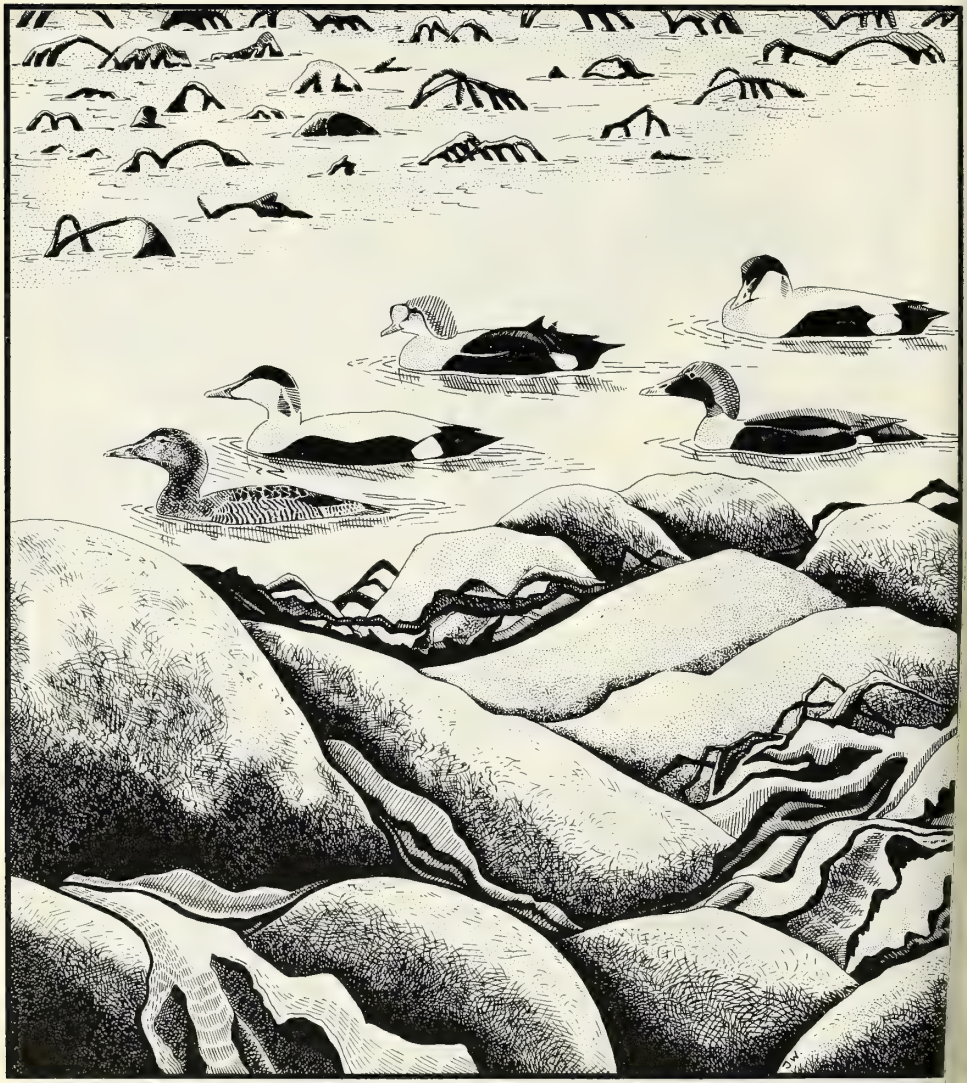
Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* (*Nicola Greenwood*)



Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* (*Nicola Greenwood*)



Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Leighton Moss (*Antony S. Disley*)



King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* with Eiders *S. mollissima* on Shetland at low tide, April 1988 *(John Wright)*



Black Grouse, *Tetrao tetrix* lekking *(John Wright)*



Rooks *Corvus frugilegus*, Low Moor Tip, Bradford (*Pete Sewell*)

of a Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* sleeping among a mass of precisely drawn dead reeds and grasses. Andrew James Mortley has made a boldly textured drawing of rocks and thrift *Armeria maritima* with the nest of a 'hooded' Carrion Crow *Corvus corone cornix*, its brooding occupant barely visible towards the top of the drawing. Anthony Smith's Bramblings *Fringilla montifringilla*, foraging for beech mast among dead leaves, merge into their background as surely as their living models. John Walters has clearly been studying Brent Geese, as his second drawing, of several feeding on green algae, will make a lively cover. A more traditional drawing by Ernest Leahy is of two Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus*, one preening, standing thigh-deep in sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare*.



Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* bathing, Chichester Harbour, December 1991 (*John M. Walters*)



Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Croig, Isle of Mull (*Andrew James Mortley*)



THE PJC AWARD WINNER: Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (*Richard Fowling*)

All the winning drawings, and many others, will be displayed at the 29th Annual Exhibition of the Society of Wildlife Artists at the Mall Galleries from 30th July to 14th August 1992.

ROBERT GILLMOR, ALAN HARRIS, KEITH SHACKLETON and J. T. R. SHARROCK

Mystery photographs

180 Readers will have had little difficulty in identifying the bird in last month's mystery photograph (plate 136, repeated here) as a lark



(Alaudidae), and the prominence of its crest alone eliminates all but two of the 22 species which have been recorded in the Western Palearctic. So far so good: it is either a Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* or a Thekla Lark *G. theklae*. Crested Lark has featured twice in this series already, with texts by D. I. M. Wallace (*Brit. Birds* 77: 289-291) and by Iain Robertson (82: 346-348; 83: 289).

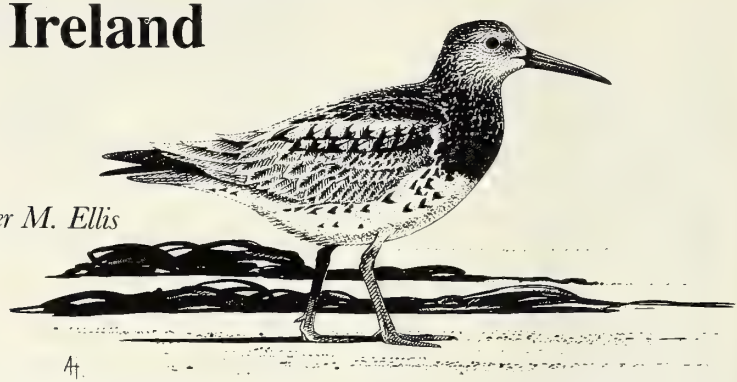
Observers who have visited areas where both species occur (in southern France, Spain, Portugal and north Africa), particularly those who have travelled quite extensively, appreciate the problems involved in separating them. In *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (vol. 5), in addition to a number of extralimital races of both species, 24 races of Crested Lark and six races of Thekla Lark are recognised in the region. Between races of each species the differences in size and structure are slight, but the variations in ground-colour and intensity of streaking are marked, particularly on Crested Lark, and the plumage of both species is much affected by bleaching and wear and also is often coloured by soil. Furthermore, whilst Crested Lark's hindcrown feathers are elongated and form a spike-like crest, and on Thekla Lark the feathers of both the central crown and the hindcrown are elongated and form a fan-like crest, the difference is not always easy to assess, even in some photographs, and the use of this feature is complicated by the effects of wear. It is sometimes possible to see the comparatively short first primary of Crested Lark (8 mm shorter to 1 mm longer than the longest primary covert) and the usually longer first primary of Thekla Lark (4 mm shorter to 5 mm longer than the longest primary covert), but not in the mystery photograph.

The good news is that, within central and southern Spain and Portugal, where each species is represented by a single race, Crested Lark and Thekla Lark may be separated by the latter's prominent black streaks on the forehead and crown, more heavily marked ear-coverts, sides of neck and hindneck, darker and browner upperparts, normally with paler, rufous-toned and more contrasting uppertail-coverts and slightly brighter rufous outer tail feathers, darker and more distinctly pale-fringed tertials and upperwing-coverts, grey-mottled throat, narrower but sharper and darker spotting on the breast, narrow but distinct black streaking on the flanks, duller and greyer underwings and darker bill. The bad news is that, without knowing where the photograph was taken, and notwithstanding the limitations of a single black-and-white photograph, these characters cannot be used to identify the mystery lark. In fact, the photograph, by Axel Halley, was taken near Goulimine, Morocco, in December 1991, so an alternative feature is required for identification.

Though a small degree of overlap occurs, the bill of Crested Lark is longer and more dagger-like than the comparatively triangular-shaped bill of Thekla Lark. This difference in bill shape gives Crested Lark the more aggressive countenance, which is further enhanced by its longer and more spiky crest. Without previous experience of the two species, this is not easy to judge, especially on a lone individual, but the photograph gives us an excellent opportunity to study a contributory character which is diagnostic: the shape of the bottom edge of the lower mandible. On Crested Lark, it is straight or slightly decurved, whilst it is convex on our mystery species, Thekla Lark.

PETER LANSDOWN
197 Springwood, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF2 6UG

Great Knot: new to Britain and Ireland



Peter M. Ellis

On 15th September 1989, at about 11.20 GMT, I was walking south at Scatness, Shetland, looking for waders roosting at high tide. I saw a small group of waders about 150 m ahead, so I stopped near an old ruined building to examine them. There were three Grey Plovers, *Pluvialis squatarola*, two Dunlins *Calidris alpina*, a Knot *C. canutus* and, just beyond them, a wader of a species I had never seen before. I excitedly reached for my telescope to examine it more closely. The size, structure and the striking black breast band and black mantle with a pale band across the lower scapulars immediately suggested an adult Great Knot *C. tenuirostris* in worn summer plumage. I watched it for about five minutes before, to my horror, the group of waders took off. Fortunately, they flew towards me and landed at the edge of a small pool about 60 m away. The whiter rump and almost total lack of a wing-bar were very obvious as the Great Knot flew in. I was then able to watch it walk past the Knot and out of the pool, where it began feeding on the short turf. After a couple of minutes, a Redshank *Tringa totanus* flew close over the Great Knot and it flew off with the Redshank to the north, disappearing from sight.

I walked the kilometre back to my car in a state of total euphoria and drove to a phone box in Toab, where I telephoned Martin Heubeck. I told him I had found a Great Knot and asked him to bring '*Shorebirds*' (Hayman *et al.* 1986) down to the phone box, as I wanted to make certain that I had remembered the identification features of the species correctly, before I put the word out on the local grapevine. About ten minutes later, Martin arrived in Toab, together with Paul V. Harvey, and, after one brief look at the relevant plate in '*Shorebirds*', I was able to confirm the initial identification. PVH and I returned to Scatness, where we failed to relocate the bird. We desperately hoped that, as the tide fell, the Great Knot would reappear on the mud flats on the Pool of Virkie. We went to the pool and, after about 15 minutes, PVH relocated the bird on the far side next to a Knot. Most of the local birders managed to get good views of the Great Knot in the next hour or so. It was photographed by Dennis Coutts (plate 169).

The bird remained on the pool until 14.40 hours, when it flew off north, but, luckily for several visiting birders, it returned about an hour later, and remained until about 17.30 hours, when it flew off north again with two

Curlews *Numenius arquata*. Shortly afterwards, a weather front arrived in Shetland, bringing southwesterly gales and rain for the next few days. About 30 birders flew into Shetland the following morning, but, despite much searching, the Great Knot was never relocated.

Description

SIZE AND SHAPE Similar in body size to Redshank, but much shorter-legged. Considerably larger than Knot, and much slimmer and more attenuated in the body. In structure, reminiscent of a giant, deep-breasted White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis* with a long Dunlin-like bill. Head proportionately smaller and more rounded than that of Knot, but with steeper forehead. Wings very long, primaries extending beyond tertials for about half length of exposed tertials and beyond tip of the tail for about one-quarter of length of exposed tertials. Tertial tips fell at base of tail. In flight, wings looked exceedingly long. Bill was proportionately longer (about 1.3 × head-length) and slimmer than that of Knot, particularly over distal two-thirds, with fine tip and gentle downward curve towards tip, although at times there appeared to be distinct downward kink at tip. Leg length proportionately similar to that of Knot.

The whole plumage appeared to be very heavily worn and, as the bird did not allow a close approach, it was impossible to obtain individual feather detail.

HEAD AND NECK Crown finely but clearly streaked blackish, forming capped effect. 'Face' pale brownish, but very plain, with only very faint dark eye-stripe, and very indistinct supercilium, which extended from bill to eye, but for less than that distance behind eye. 'Cheeks' considerably paler than ear-coverts. Chin and throat blackish. Nape finely streaked dark brownish-grey, paler than crown on upper part, but darker on lower part, where almost same colour as mantle.

UPPERPARTS Mantle heavily blotched with black. Upper three rows of scapulars also very heavily blotched with black, so that, at a distance, upperparts appeared to be almost uniform black. Fourth row of scapulars creamy-buff on basal two-thirds, with black semicircular markings towards tip of each feather and with faint chestnut tinge on bases of rear ones. Exact patterning of these feathers difficult to make out as feathers appeared to be quite worn and faded. Lowest row of scapulars black, with worn, narrow, creamy fringes. Pale areas on two lowest rows of scapulars forming conspicuous pale bar. Rump white, contrasting with tail, which was mid grey at sides and darker grey in centre, whole tail being darker than on Knot.

WINGS Tertials brownish-grey with paler fringes. Greater coverts had dark grey, lanceolate centres, with dark grey shaft streaks and pale grey-brown fringes, with median and lesser coverts similarly marked. Primary coverts dark grey, almost black, contrasting with rest of upperwing. Secondaries grey and primaries dark grey, with no obvious wing-bar in flight. Underwing-coverts white.

UNDERPARTS Breast densely mottled black, mottles coalescing on lower breast to form complete breast band, and with a few more-isolated black spots on lower breast. Flanks white, with large, heart-shaped black spots, extending from sides of breast to rear of flanks. Belly and undertail-coverts white.

BARE PARTS Bill dark grey, probably slightly paler on proximal quarter. Legs greenish-grey. Eye dark.

BEHAVIOUR Feeding action very like that of Knot. Flight very buoyant, with very slow wing beats and almost a rowing action. Glided a lot, particularly as descending to land. Very flighty and often took off and flew around pool for no apparent reason, and did not allow particularly close approach.

Distribution and vagrancy

The Great Knot breeds in northeastern Siberia and winters from southern China south to Australia; it has been recorded as a vagrant in many countries (Marchant 1986). Considerable numbers have been discovered wintering in the Sultanate of Oman in recent years, the highest count being 1,193 between 25th December 1989 and 6th January 1990 (J. D. Uttley *in litt.*), and records have become more frequent in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, including a flock of 107 there on 9th April 1991 (*Birding World* 4: 161).

There have been five previous records in the Western Palearctic: an adult in Spain on 7th April 1979 (Martínez Vilalta & Motis 1985), an adult in Morocco on 27th August 1980 (Lister 1981), an adult in Israel on 24th October 1985 (Schekkerman 1986), an adult in eastern Germany on 1st August 1987 (Nehls & Schmeckebier 1988), and one of uncertain age in Norway on 12th September 1987 (Bentz 1989).

There have been two subsequent occurrences: a juvenile in the Netherlands during 19th-25th September and 29th September to 6th October 1991 (Berlijn 1991; van der Burg *et al.* 1991; Eigenhuis 1992 in press; *Brit. Birds* 85: plates 183 & 184) and a report of one of unstated age in Israel on at least 6th November 1991 (*Birding World* 4: 383).

Acknowledgments

I should like to thank K. J. Eigenhuis, P. V. Harvey and Dr A. G. Knox for commenting on the manuscript, and Dennis Coutts for providing the photograph.

Summary

A summer-plumaged Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* was present at Scatness and the Pool of Virkie, Shetland, on 15th September 1989. This was the first record for Britain and Ireland and the sixth record for the Western Palearctic of this Siberian long-distance migrant. The world distribution and other Western Palearctic records are summarised.

References

Bentz, P. G. 1989. Sjeldne Fugler i Norge i 1987. *Vår Fuglefauna* 12: 101-108.

Berlijn, M. 1991. Grote Kanoet onverwachte nieuwkomer. *Dutch Birding* 13: 196.

Eigenhuis, K. J. 1992. Grote Kanoet in Oostvaardersplassen en De Putten in September-Oktober 1991. *Dutch Birding* 14: in press.

Hayman, P., Marchant, J. H., & Prater, A. J. 1986. *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the world.* London.

Lister, S. M. 1981. Le Grand Maubèche *Calidris tenuirostris* nouveau pour l'ouest du Paléarctique. *Alauda* 49: 227-228.

Marchant, J. H. 1986. Identification, habits and status of Great Knot. *Brit. Birds* 79: 123-135.

Martínez Vilalta, A., & Motis, A. 1985. Aves nuevas para la avifauna Española, *Calidris tenuirostris*. *La Garcilla* 65: 41-42.

Nehls, H. W., & Schmeckebier, D. 1988. Grosser Knutt (*Calidris tenuirostris*) im August 1987 an der Ostseeküste der DDR. *Beitr. Vogelkd.* 34: 194-196.

Schekkerman, H. 1986. Great Knot in Israel in October 1985. *Dutch Birding* 8: 99-101.

van der Burg, E., van Dongen, R. M., & de Rouw, P. W. W. 1991. Recente meldingen: September en Oktober 1991. *Dutch Birding* 13: 229.

Peter M. Ellis, Seaview, Sandwick, Shetland ZE2 9HP

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) and Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) have commented as follows: 'Although the bird was present for less than a day, was seen by rather few observers, and did not allow a close approach, Peter Ellis's detailed description and Dennis Coutts's sharp photographs enabled the identification aspect of the record to gain the unanimous support of both the BBRC and the BOURC on a single circulation to each Committee. Categorisation of Great Knot presented no problems to the BOURC, whose members took into consideration the species' highly migratory habits, with breeding and wintering ranges not dissimilar to those of Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis* and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata*, the previous Western Palearctic records and the extremely slight escape likelihood. Acceptance of this Great Knot as being of natural occurrence (*Brit. Birds* 84: 469; *Ibis* 133: 438-439) results in the species being placed in Category A of the British and Irish list.' Eds

The inclusion of plates 169-174 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany.*

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Top binoculars for the future

Most popular binoculars

Most popular make of binocular

Recommended by British Birds

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading. Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester. Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd, Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hannington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds, Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough, Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports

Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the country.

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

Zeiss experience and quality has ieved a world wide reputation excellence.

heir latest Binocular Survey, the ead of the universally respected British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA 'T' Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ZEISS Germany Carl Zeiss

(D961)

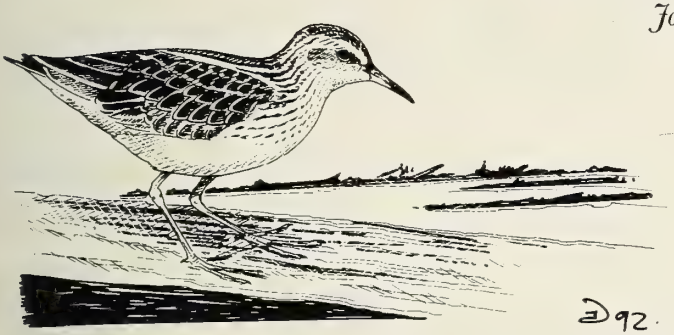


172-174. Juvenile Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Cleveland, September 1982 (*top, P. A. Doherty; centre, A. V. Moon; bottom, David W. Burns*)



Long-toed Stint: new to Britain and Ireland

John B. Dunnett



At about noon on Saturday 28th August 1982, at Saltholme Pool, Cleveland, Tom Francis and I discovered independently a lone wader with structure and feeding behaviour typical of a Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. Other similarities with that species included a small, squarish head, ample neck and longish pale-coloured legs. On the other hand, a bright chestnut crown and upperparts, clear supercilia and an indistinct pectoral band, together with prominent white mantle and scapular lines ('V's), were plumage features one would associate with either juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata*. The combination was puzzling.

Having to contend with both an exceptional heat haze (inhibiting full use of a telescope) and shortage of time, we risked a closer approach, whereupon the bird flew to the opposite end of the pool. TF and I both believed that we had seen a white rump, a feature which was seemingly substantiated when the bird (now at long range) started preening, revealing prominent white lateral tail-coverts. Hastily accepting this as a juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis*, albeit a strange one, we departed, although not until numerous observers had witnessed and agreed with our presumption.

Later, in the evening, I returned to the pool. Viewed for a second time and at much closer range, I was amazed—indeed shocked—at the bird's stint-like size and proportions. Initially, from farther afield, it had appeared larger, a curious phenomenon which was later experienced by numerous observers. Now accompanying Dunlins *C. alpina*, the strange bird was bodily only three-quarters of their size, but, owing to its more upright posture and significantly longer legs, was of equal height. I also discovered the absence of a white rump.

Despite extensive searching on the following day, the bird was not relocated. After perusal of the limited literature that I had available, however, and following several telephone conversations, I expressed my views on the probability of Long-toed Stint *C. subminuta* to C. Sharp, who subsequently related this to a colleague, and that evening I received a telephone call from R. T. McAndrew offering a supporting description.

Fortunately, the next morning (Bank Holiday Monday), the stint was relocated and, following a brief period of observation with Ian Mills, we agreed that 'the Grapevine' should be notified. This was carried out shortly before noon. The bird was last seen on 1st September.

During its five-day stay, the bird was observed only on Saltholme Pool, despite, in its absence, being sought elsewhere. It showed great site-fidelity, almost always feeding on the same edge of the pool, affording excellent opportunities for viewing and photography.

Description

SIZE AND SHAPE Marginally larger than Little Stint *C. minuta* (though direct comparison not obtained), more upright stance with longer neck, especially so when extended (cf. *Brit. Birds* 75: plates 215-217), more attenuated towards the tail, and longer-legged, creating problems when attempting accurate size comparison. When viewed from farther afield, seemingly grew in stature and, combined with small, squarish head (owing to steep forehead), flattish back, ample belly and attenuated rear, bore uncanny resemblance to Pectoral Sandpiper, an impression iterated by most observers.

HEAD Central forehead and crown black, with bright chestnut lateral fringes extending from base of upper mandible, creating striped effect (three on either side). Supercilium white, starting short of forehead and extending onto sides of upper hindneck, with increasing amounts of brownish streaking, distinctly rounded or bulbous in front of eye, almost bisecting lower grey-brown loral line, the latter being a continuation of the black/brown forehead extending backwards and widening (crescent-shaped) in front of and slightly below eye before expanding onto ear-coverts, forming distinctive oval brown patch with lower buffish fringes. In bright sunlight, 'split supercilium' effect formed owing to the fusion of fore part with lower chestnut fringes of crown.

UPPERPARTS Chestnut tones of crown terminated on nape in downward point. Hindneck and sides of neck grey, with delicate grey-brown flecking. Mantle black with chestnut-buff streaking, neatly framed either side with broad white/cream fringes, forming prominent lines or V (as on juvenile Little Stint), apparent at long range and further accentuated by alignment of black-centred outer mantle feathers and neat top row of black scapulars, forming two solid black parallel lines. Lower back, rump and central tail feathers black, with contrasting white lateral tail-coverts and greyish outers. Scapulars, black/brown-centred with downwardly increasing amounts of chestnut fringes, the lower two rows having broad orange-chestnut fringes with white leading edges and tips, forming two broken yet prominent white scapular lines.

WINGS Tertials black with chestnut fringes, long and at all times cloaking primaries, almost reaching, apart from a couple of millimetres, tip of tail, which was black where visible. Lesser and median coverts with black/brown centres, whitish-buff edges and dark tips. Greater coverts similar to tertials, having black centres, but marginally paler fringes more orange in tone with whitish tips. Whilst observing the bird preening at close range on 1st September, I was able to detect a white shaft to the longest primary, a feature specifically looked for, having previously read of this in the literature (Wallace 1974). The primary feathers were blackish, and the remainder of the shafts were either brown or grey. When viewed in bright sunlight, chestnut tones of crown and fringes of tertials were radiant; the supercilium and mantle lines appeared whiter than the underparts.

UNDERPARTS Chin and throat white, narrow collar of fine greyish-brown streaks encircling lower throat and breast, forming gorget which ended in downward point. Streaking heavier, more pronounced and of browner tone towards sides, and extended onto upper flanks. Sides of breast and upper flanks, however, partially separated by inverted V of white underparts; streaking on upper flanks more sporadic and of warmer brown tone, and suffused with general buffish-orange wash. Remainder of underparts, lower flanks, belly and undertail-coverts white.

BARE PARTS At exceptionally close range and in bright sunlight, yellowish suffusion on basal area of lower mandible (apparent in some photographs). On all other occasions, bill appeared black, slightly downcurved towards tip, appearing approximately three-quarters length of head. Iris dark brown or black. Arguably, most significant feature was leg length, owing largely to the amount of tibia visible: yellow legs and

toes, even hind toes, seemed conspicuously long.

BEHAVIOUR Feeding technique akin to Wood Sandpiper, appearing sedate and erect, frequently extending its longish neck, picking rather than probing and generally lacking the rapidity of a feeding Little Stint. During one period of observation when on dry terrain, with neck extended parallel to the ground and attenuated rear pointing skywards, was most reminiscent of a feeding Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*. Whenever wading (occasionally up to underparts) or feeding in soft mud, appeared to show some difficulty in extracting its feet, a characteristic which was seemingly substantiated by its eagerness to perch on any convenient stone. Indeed, when initially sighted it was resourcefully using a discarded wooden plank as a platform from which to feed.

FLIGHT When flying with Dunlins, smaller size and quicker flight apparent, the prominence of the white lateral tail-coverts, emphasised by the dark upperparts, being the most striking feature; whitish tips of greater coverts formed indistinct wing-bar. Rump and central tail feathers black with greyish-white outer tail feathers.

CALL Similar to that of Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea*, but lower in pitch: rolled 'terrup, terrup'.

Identification

Of the three small *Calidris* species showing pale legs, the most atypical is Temminck's Stint *C. temminckii*. Apart from its characteristic habit of towering on take-off and the prominence of white lateral tail feathers in flight, it has no other similarities to the Saltholme bird; indeed, black-and-chestnut-spangled upperparts, prominent white mantle lines and a split supercilium are features more reminiscent of juvenile Little Stint. My impressions gained of Least Sandpiper *C. minutilla* in the USA were of a smaller species, with shorter legs and neck, which, therefore, appeared stint-like in structure and feeding technique rather than possessing the combination of characters associated with Wood Sandpiper. With the wealth of information so readily available now regarding the identification of Long-toed Stint and its separation from the two other yellow-legged stints, it is difficult to comprehend that, less than a decade ago, none of the original observers involved had previously seen a photograph of this delightful species. Fortunately, however, most of the relevant criteria on stint identification had been outlined by Wallace (1974), and an initial perusal of his paper immediately ruled out all previously recorded stints and peeps (apart from Least Sandpiper), including Temminck's Stint, with which I was familiar, mainly on the latter's uniform, duller upperparts, indistinct supercilium and horizontal stance. Of the two remaining species in contention, the combination of the dark forehead extending to the base of the bill, contrasting black-and-chestnut upperparts and, above all, the striking similarities to Wood Sandpiper, both in posture and in feeding behaviour, supported the identification as Long-toed Stint on all counts, apart from a reference to 'lacking stripes' (Wallace 1974), a feature so apparent on the Saltholme individual that it was impossible to ignore. Kitson (1978), however, refuted this last remark, and went on to describe at least two individuals in breeding plumage in Mongolia in 1977 as showing pale lines; furthermore, he confirmed their presence on the immature at Ottenby, Sweden, in 1977 (Pettersson *et al.* 1978). Thus, a positive identification could be made.

Four photographs of the Saltholme Long-toed Stint (three by Paul Doherty and one by S. Roebuck) have already been published (*Brit. Birds* 75: plates 215-217; 78: plate 275) and 11 more are shown here (plates 170-180).





175-177. Juvenile Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* (lower two with Dunlins *C. alpina*), Cleveland, September 1982 (*P. A. Doherty*)



FIELD DAYS

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in.
★ **10.00 am to 4.00 pm** ★

★ **Hanningfield Reservoir**
off the A130 north of Basildon, Essex, on **Sunday 9th August** (near fishing lodge).

★ **Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve**
on the B2145 into Selsey, West Sussex, on **Sundays 26th July, 30th August** and **27th September.**

★ **Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve**
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball station on **Sundays 2nd August, 6th September** and **4th October.**

★ **Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir**
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the Information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 16th August 20th September** and **18th October.**

★ **Bewl Water**
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 26th July, 30th August** and **27th September.** *Show this advert for half price parking. Refund with purchase.

★ **Alton Water**
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 19th July.**

★ **College Lake Wildlife Centre**
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the overlook hide on **23rd Aug, 20th September** and **18th October.**.

★ **Durlston Country Park**
off the A351 near Swanage, Dorset. In the visitor centre on **Sunday 13th September.** A migrant bird walk will be held.

★ **The Sussex Widlife Trust at Woods Mill,**
Hanfield, W. Sussex (A.2037) on **Sunday 13th September.**

FREE TRIPOD, WORTH £40 (SOLIGOR) with certain* telescopes – or pay the extra for a different tripod.

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS
BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

To celebrate 30 years in the optical business, we are offering

★ 10% OFF all prices ★

(Offer closes 15th September 1992 at 5.00 pm.

Some examples of our stocks:

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
800mm RA mirror lens kit	299
SWAROVSKI *	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	329
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
* FREE WITH SCOPE *	
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA *	
TSN-1 (45°) body	316
TSN-2 body	316
TSN-3 body	636
TSN-4 body	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	219
TS 602 scope body (45°)	199
27x (WA) eyepiece	94
20x (WA) eyepiece	64
25x (WA)	54
20-60x zoom	109
Case	22
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope body	149
25x eyepiece	30
27x (WA) eyepiece	64
OPTOLYTH *	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
20-60x zoom EP	72
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT *	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15

SPECIAL OFFER
KESTREL ED WATERPROOF SCOPES:

20 X 60 EDS	~~£350~~	**£280**
30 X 60 ED	~~£300~~	**£290**

ROSS	
8 x 42 ZCF Regent	170
10 x 42 ZWCF Kensington	180
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Slik 444 'Sport'	79
Slik 'Shogun'	99
Manfrotto 144B/200	105
Manfrotto 190B/200	93
Manfrotto 290B/200	95
Soligor	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps, from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports** including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit** (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

ACCESS

(D158)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

Your last chance to buy SLIK D2 TRIPODS stocks limited

TEST THE NEW NIKON 10x40 and 8x32 armoured roof prism binoculars

FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

*Wheelchair access to our showroom is greatly improved with the addition of a wide ramp to our entrance. Disabled customers most welcome!

*The kestrels have fledged four chicks, and the greater spotted woodpeckers have brought their young to the bird table.

ZEISS

10x40 BGAT*P	639.00
7x42 BGAT*P	639.00
8x30 BGAT*P	529.00
Design selection	
8x20 BT*P	295.00
10x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

Trinovid 8x20 BCA	239.00
Trinovid 10x25 BCA	255.00
7x42 BA	649.00
8x42 BA	649.00
10x42 BA	649.00

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8x40 BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40 BGA	249.00
Touring 10x40	445.00
TBS/G 80 Body	390.00
TBS/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
22x-60x zoom EP	159.00
20xWA	122.00
30xWA	135.00

NIKON

8x32 DCF RA	380.00
10x40 DCF RA	400.00
8x30 ECF	229.00
Fieldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
Spotting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

Multicoat 8x42	169.95
Multicoat 10x42	179.95
Multicoat 10x50	198.95
Add £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	219.00
TS 602 Body	199.00
20xWA	64.00
25x40x	54.00
20x-60x zoom EP	109.00
Case for 601 and 602	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20xWA	109.00
30xWA	139.00
25x40x	69.00
20x-60x zoom EP	169.00
Case for TSN Range	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	129.00
Photo adaptor 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 25x60mm	126.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x H.E.P.	27.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50
Hide Clamp Mk II	42.00

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 7x36 RA.P	599.00
Elite 8x42 RA.P	659.00
Elite 10x42 RA.P	659.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	169.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body RA	169.00
15-45x zoom EP	79.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	239.00

ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	60.50
190 Legs	50.50
055 Legs	79.50
290 B	54.50
200 Video Head	43.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2901	63.95
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

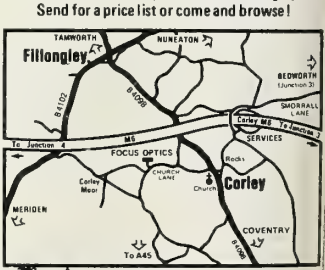
WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday - Saturday 9 am until 5 pm
Sunday - 10 am until 4 pm
(Closed on Monday)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:
QUESTAR•FUJINON•FUMOTO MIRADOR•BRESSER•PENTAX REDFIELD•OPTIMA•PRAKTICA
Billingham Equipment Bags.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic. Send for a price list or come and browse!



FOCUS OPTICS - The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

OPENING TIMES
Tue–Sat 9am–5pm
SUNDAY 10am–4pm

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge. (UK only). Orders less than £100 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

BARCLAYCARD VISA

(D166)



178-180. Juvenile Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Cleveland, September 1982 (*Ian Kimber*)





Acknowledgments

I am grateful to R. T. McAndrew for his initial support on 28th August 1982, when it was assumed that the bird had departed; to D. Sowerbutts for a supporting description; and to A. J. Wheeldon for his detailed description, for obtaining the original text on the Swedish individual, and for persuading Ingrid and Benny Duffin to translate it.

Summary

A juvenile Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* was present at Saltholme Pool, Cleveland, from 28th August to 1st September 1982. This constitutes the first record of this species in Britain and Ireland, and the second in the Western Palearctic, the first being at Ottenby, Sweden, in October-November 1977.

References

KITSON, A. R. 1978. Identification of Long-toed Stint, Pintail Snipe and Asiatic Dowitcher. *Brit. Birds* 71: 558-562.

PETTERSSON, J., ÖSTERBERG, J., & KJELLÉN, N. 1978. Långtåsnäppa *Calidris subminuta* funnen vid Ottenby—en ny art för Europa. *Vår Fågelvärld* 37: 333-338.

WALLACE, D. I. M. 1974. Field identification of small species in the genus *Calidris*. *Brit. Birds* 67: 1-16.

John B. Dunnett, 43 Hemlington Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) and Dr Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) have commented as follows: 'The BBRC's and the BOURC's acceptance of the identification was made relatively straightforward by the time of year and by the fresh feathers of the upperparts and wings and their regular pattern, which readily enabled the bird to be aged as a juvenile. As such, the only real confusion species for Long-toed Stint is Least Sandpiper. As revealed initially by Jonsson & Grant (*Brit. Birds* 77: 293-315), and refined more recently by Alström & Olsson (*Brit. Birds* 82: 360-372) and Doherty (*Birding World* 4: 279-281), juveniles of the two species are easily separable given good views and carefully taken field notes, which is the case here. The Saltholme Pool bird is identifiable as a Long-toed Stint on a number of characters: the small-headed, long-necked, long-legged appearance; the unmarked, white, bulbous fore-end to the supercilium coupled with a loral line which is exceptionally slender centrally and which widens towards the eye and towards the bill, where it meets the dark feathering of the forehead; the cleanly striped mantle; the richness of the rufous edges to the mantle feathers, scapulars and tertials; the whitish component in the fringes of the wing-coverts; the dark extreme tips to the lesser and median coverts forming a break in the otherwise pale surround to each feather; the rather fine streaking on the sides of the breast and its extension onto the upper flanks; the pale base to the lower mandible; and the low, rolling call.

'The BOURC encountered no difficulties during its categorisation of the species. Long-toed Stint is highly migratory, breeding in Siberia and wintering mainly in southeast Asia and the Philippines, with numbers reaching both India and Australia; it is a most unlikely species to be found in captivity, and particularly so a juvenile; and its appearance coincided with that of Britain and Ireland's first Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus*. Acceptance of this Long-toed Stint as being of natural occurrence (*Brit. Birds* 78: 546; *Ibis* 128: 601) resulted in the species being accorded Category A status on the British and Irish list.

'An earlier record, of a small, pale-legged wader in summer plumage at Marazion Marsh, Cornwall, in June 1970, currently accepted as Least Sandpiper (*Brit. Birds* 64: 351), is under reconsideration by the BBRC as a potential Long-toed Stint, at the request of some of the observers.

'The Saltholme Pool Long-toed Stint file, containing the comments of the members of the BBRC and preliminary notes from the BOURC, was one of a batch of files lost in the post to the USA in 1984 during the BOURC circulation. The file was reassembled without the comments and votes of the committees. The BOURC now operates a system of copying that will enable any such lost files to be rebuilt with ease.' EDS

Identification pitfalls and assessment problems*

This series, which started in January 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28), is not intended to cover all facets of the identification of the species concerned, but only the major sources of error likely to mislead the observer in the field or the person attempting to assess the written evidence. The species covered are mostly those which were formerly judged by the Rarities Committee*, but which are now the responsibility of county and regional recorders and records committees.

12. Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

The decision of the British Birds Rarities Committee to delete Surf Scoter from the list of species it considers, with effect from 1st January 1991, reflects the increase in occurrence of this Nearctic duck on this side of the Atlantic. In the 16-year period 1958-73 there were 28, but there has been an upsurge since then with at least 246 in the following 16 years, from 1974 to 1989. Surf Scoter nevertheless continues to be a rare bird in England and Wales. It has become increasingly commoner in Scotland, where small parties are now regular at favoured sites and where, for example, a minimum of 11 different individuals was recorded at one such site on the East Lothian coast in 1989. These parties have included paired birds, and there has been much display as well as aggressive interaction between paired males and unpaired males. There must be a prospect of breeding occurring sooner or later on this side of the Atlantic—if it has not already occurred.

With good views, there should be no real problem with the identification of adult male Surf Scoters. They are slightly shorter in length than Velvet Scoters *M. fusca*. Compared with that species and with Common Scoter *M. nigra*, they are proportionately bigger-headed and appear shorter-necked, squatter and bulkier. The proportionately bigger head of Surf Scoter is accentuated further by its larger bill, which is obviously deeper than that of Velvet or Common, and which has a markedly swollen base. The bill, a long sloping forehead and a flattish crown combine to give Surf Scoter a head profile reminiscent of Eider *Somateria mollissima*. This head profile is quite different from that of Common Scoter, which has a smaller and shorter bill and a very rounded head. The profile of Velvet Scoter is intermediate, with sloping bill and forehead, but a more rounded crown. The multicoloured bill of Surf Scoter, with yellow, black, white and orange, is readily visible at long range, even if the detailed pattern can be discerned only at closer range. Also strikingly visible at very long range are a large shield-shaped white patch covering most of the nape and a smaller white patch on the forehead. During summer and autumn eclipse, the white nape patch disappears or is obscure, but the forehead patch is still prominent. Surf Scoter, like Common Scoter, lacks the white secondaries of Velvet Scoter. When Velvet is on the water, the white

*This paper, like those earlier in the series (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28, 78-80, 129-130, 203-206, 304-305, 342-346; 77: 412-415; 78: 97-102; 81: 126-134; 84: 145-148; 85: 21-24), is a publication of the Rarities Committee, which is sponsored by *CARL ZEISS—Germany.*

secondaries may show as a small patch or line on the wing, but they are often hidden by the scapulars. The all-black wings of Surf are best confirmed in flight or when, as Surf Scoters frequently do, the bird stretches up from the water and flaps its wings.

First-summer male Surf Scoters have the same general appearance and structure as adult males, but the bill is less developed and not so swollen. The bill colours are duller and paler, the nape patch tends to be smaller and duller, the forehead patch is absent, the retained juvenile wing feathers are browner, and the belly is pale. When seen together in flight, the wingspan of Surf Scoter is noticeably shorter than that of Velvet Scoter. Surf Scoter also tends to sit lower in the water than do other scoters.

In summary, males are straightforward to identify on bill and head structure and shape, bill colour, one or two striking white head patches and the absence of white secondaries. So what possible pitfalls could there be? The answer usually lies in observers being unwary or too 'keen' when looking through distant scoter flocks in rough seas when birds are bobbing into view only momentarily. On several occasions in such circumstances, I have seen observers convince themselves, particularly when Surf Scoter is known to be present, that they have seen the striking white head patch of Surf, when they have almost certainly seen the flashing white secondaries of a Velvet Scoter wing-flapping as it bobbed into view or the white of a Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. Conversely, it is also worth noting that the smaller nape patch of first-summer males may not be visible when the bird is in full profile. This could lead to such birds being overlooked in a distant scoter flock.

Adult females and juveniles are more difficult. Juveniles are similar to adult females, but are paler than the dark sooty-brown females, lack the pale nape patch which is present on some females, and have pale bellies. Assessment problems arise when the bill and head shape and pattern are not well enough described. In such cases, and where the lack of white secondaries has not been noted, Velvet Scoter may not be ruled out. Where absence of white secondaries has been noted, for example on a bird flying past, the question is whether Common Scoter can be eliminated. Female and juvenile Surf Scoters share the same Eider-like bill and head profile of males. Although the dark greyish-black bill is not obviously swollen as it is with males, it is still deeper-based and heavier than that of Velvet. At least some first-winter females have a less well-developed bill (and therefore also a less extreme head shape) than adult females (Peter Lansdown verbally). The head pattern is variable, but all individuals show a darker crown and paler 'face', producing a capped effect which is rarely, if ever, shown by Velvet. The paler face of Surf Scoter is, however, still dark compared with the very pale and strongly contrasting face of Common Scoter. Female Surf can show a pale nape patch, which is never shown by Velvet or Common Scoters. This can be as extensive as the nape patch on males, although duller, and is then readily visible at long range. On other females and on juveniles, it is not present and these birds require particular care to ensure that they are not overlooked as Velvet Scoters. Like Velvet, the two off-white patches on the face, one in front of and one behind the eye, are variable and can be absent. At very close range, and when present, a difference can often be seen in the shape of the patch in front of the eye on

Surf and Velvet Scoters. On Surf, the anterior edge of the patch is more or less straight and vertical, whereas the whole of the patch on Velvet is oval or egg-shaped. Some Common Scoters, especially juveniles in autumn, can show dusky patches on their pale faces, producing a pattern which could be confused with that of Surf Scoter, but the smaller bill and different head profile should preclude confusion.

The key to the safe identification of female and juvenile Surf Scoters is confirmation of the absence of white secondaries and precise observation of the bill and head profile and head pattern. Observers should also be careful not to assume that a female accompanying a male Surf Scoter must also be that species. In the Firth of Forth, unpaired male Surfs have frequently associated very closely with female Velvets, and have also joined in with displaying groups of male and female Common Scoters. Females should therefore be confirmed on positive identification features and not by association.

Killian Mullarney (*Dutch Birding* 5: 24-25) drew attention to the diving and wing-flapping behaviour of scoters. Briefly, Surf dives with partially opened wings and often jumps forward; Velvet dives with partially opened wings, often revealing a flash of its white secondaries, but with no jump; and Common dives with closed wings and an energetic jump. When wing-flapping, both Surf and Velvet keep their heads and bills pointing above the horizontal and their necks rigid, whereas Common usually droops its neck with a downward thrust during the wing-flap. I agree with these general differences, but would stress, as Killian Mullarney did, that such behavioural characteristics should be used only as good indicators of the species concerned. Positive identification should then be made, using the criteria described earlier in this summary. If that proves impossible, an observer should accept that it 'got away'. Firm claims need to be based on structure and plumage, not behaviour.

ALAN BROWN
23 King's Court, Longniddry, East Lothian EH32 0QP

A paper by Jon Dunn on the identification of Surf Scoter is in preparation and will be published in a future volume of *British Birds*. EDS.

Points of view

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

19. Crashes

'Sixty years ago Red-backed Shrike [*Lanius collurio*], Wryneck [*Jynx torquilla*] and Cirl Bunting [*Emberiza cirlus*] were all common and widespread breeding birds. Two hardly breed in Britain and the Cirl Bunting is close to extinction in this country. At the present rate of decline, the Corn Bunting [*Miliaria calandra*] may well also be extinct in Britain in sixty years time.' (*BTO News* 178: 8).

'The much cooler springs of recent decades, together with land drainage and the loss of over 50% of farm ponds, has led to a decline in numbers of many of the larger insects, such as dragonflies. Numbers of hirundines, especially Sand Martins *Riparia riparia*, have also declined. Our southern heathlands have been eroded away and fragmented by urbanisation, and hedgerow trees (which supply nest-sites) have been removed by man or destroyed by gales over much of southern Britain. It is little surprise, therefore, to note the resulting decline in numbers of Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* and the great contraction in range of this attractive small falcon, which formerly graced England's southern heathland and farmland, but now seems doomed to extinction here.' (*Brit. Birds* 85: 440).

The first quote is genuine; the second is not. The Hobby has increased and expanded its range to a striking extent in the past 20 years. Why? If the Hobby had declined, we would have plenty of reasons to explain the disaster. Are our other explanations any more reliable? The decline of the Wryneck was once attributed to the loss of orchards, then to climatic change and reduced food supplies (fewer ants).

Let's face the truth. We are groping in the dark. How many of the declines (which we bemoan) and increases (which we tend to ignore) are actually reflecting the long-term ebb and flow of constantly changing populations and ranges? When these are on a short-term cycle (e.g. lemmings *Lemmus*), biologists can recognise them, but any with a rhythm longer than about 100 years will not yet have been detected, for bird-population studies have a much shorter history.

If, at some time in the future, papers appear in *BB* documenting 'The return of the Wryneck' or 'The return of the Red-backed Shrike', my shade may perhaps be heard murmuring 'Told you so.' J. T. R. SHARROCK

Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Sponsored by

SUNBIRD

Monthly marathon

May's bird on a frosty branch (plate 116) was named as:

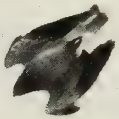
Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus*	(59%)
Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*	(27%)
Willow Tit *P. montanus*	(14%)

with a few votes each for Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*, Blackcap *S. atricapilla* and Coal Tit *P. ater*.

It was a Siberian Jay, photographed by Henry Lehto in Finland in January 1991.

All of the leading contenders got it right, so this long-running current 'Marathon' continues, with eight entrants still in the hunt, on 13-in-a-row sequences. The winner will be able to claim a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday to Africa, Asia or North America. The next stage in the competition appears below.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



181. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-fifth stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 74). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th September 1992



ICBP news

Agriculture in eastern Europe—a call for co-operation A major concern that was highlighted at the ICBP's European Continental Section Conference in Aachen, Germany, this May was that agricultural developments in eastern Europe should not result in declines in the wildlife similar to those seen in the West. Western Europe's birds have been greatly decreased by agricultural practices since the Second World War. In particular, the EC Common Agricultural Policy has hugely reduced the amount of suitable habitat for birds. Farmland in eastern Europe, which is worked much less intensively than in the West, still hosts great numbers of birds, and species such as Corncrake *Crex crex* and White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, now rare in western Europe, are still relatively common.

Thirty-six delegates from 13 countries in central and eastern Europe and the former USSR participated in the Conference, making it one of the most significant meetings for the conservation of Europe's birds ever to take place. The delegates from the East requested that western European conservationists should assist them in trying to prevent the mistakes of the West being repeated in their countries.

The ICBP, under its '*Wings Across Europe*' programme, is already providing financial and technical aid to develop non-governmental conservation organisations in six countries in the region, and is seeking ways to help more. Support is provided by several of the ICBP's member organisations in western Europe, particularly the RSPB in the UK, the Schweizer Vogelschutz in Switzerland, the Vogelbescherming in the Netherlands and the Dansk Ornitologisk Forening in Denmark.

The aim is that these new organisations in the East will develop into powerful voices for the protection of the environment and, with help from Western partners, will be able to influence decision-makers and policy-makers. The organisations will also stimulate and encourage interest in wildlife conservation amongst the public.

GEORGINA GREEN

International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Once in a while, BTO survey results bring great cheer. The Peregrine Survey of 1991 is one such instance. The survey has revealed that the Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* has reached a new high in its population level in Britain. There are now at least 1,050 occupied Peregrine territories in Britain, more than have ever been recorded before.

Peregrines are counted every ten years by BTO members. In 1963, the shocking results of the survey revealed only 400 occupied territories in Britain, and many of the birds were not breeding successfully. Subsequent research revealed that pesticides, such as DDT, Dieldrin and Aldrin, were poisoning the birds to death and, in addition, the calcium metabolism of the female was being disrupted. This resulted in the laying of thin-shelled eggs which were inadvertently broken by the incubating birds.

The results of the early 1960s eventually resulted in the restriction and eventual banning of the harmful chemicals. The recovery was slow owing to the persistence of organo-chlorine pesticides in the environment. But by 1981 the BTO survey revealed 800 occupied breeding territories, and the first results of the 1991 survey, published in *BTO News* (180), show a total of 1,050 occupied territories.

The recovery has been aided by a host of factors, which include volunteer protection measures to thwart egg and chick thieves, and a more responsible attitude from gamekeepers and shooters.

The recovery poses some problems for pigeon-fanciers, since wild and feral Rock Doves *Columba livia* feature among the Peregrine's favourite prey species. Over two million pigeon rings are issued annually, and many pigeons are lost every year during races and training. The increase in Peregrine numbers will have an insignificant effect on racing pigeons.

To tackle the problem perceived by pigeon-fanciers, Bristol Ornithological Club have dreamed up an innovative scheme. They are generating a feral pigeon flock between the Avon Gorge, which now contains a pair of Peregrines in a pre-war site just 2 km from the centre of Bristol, and the pigeon area to the south of the city. Local mills are supplying corn free of charge. BTO Regional Secretary John Tully does not think the buffer flock will solve the problem, but hopes that it will take the heat out of the situation. Gulls are now a favourite prey item of the Bristol Peregrines, to the great relief of the BOC.

PAUL GREEN

BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

Review

The Birds of Bedfordshire. By Paul Trodd & David Kramer. Illustrated by Andrew P. Chick. Castlemead Publications, Welwyn Garden City, 1991. 349 pages; 16 colour plates: 19 black-and-white plates; 56 line-drawings; 112 distribution maps. £18.95.

County bird books are traditionally written by dedicated amateurs, well known locally, and published by small local publishers to an impressively high standard. This one is no exception. As always with a good, well-researched, thorough county avifauna, one wonders how the authors had the time and energy to complete the task while maintaining both active birdwatching and a normal life and still finding time for more jobs. Paul Trodd, for example, had the extra burden of being county recorder during the preparation of the book, while Dave Kramer was secretary of the county natural history society.

One reason for putting birds on record and spending so much time 'getting the record straight'—whether through local and national records committee vetting procedures, census work or atlas work—is to leave something with which future generations can compare their situation. As we are 'posterity' ourselves where old records are concerned, I think it both right and interesting that the findings of earlier generations of birdwatchers are included in modern accounts (otherwise, why did they bother?). I am pleased, therefore, that this new Bedfordshire book looks

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins). £14.99 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm) £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐
*Brucker, Gosler & Heryet *The Birds of Oxfordshire* (Nat. Cons. Bureau) £27.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐
*del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx) (DUE SEPTEMBER PREPUBLICATION OFFER (normal price £95.00) £73.00 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond) Paperback £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐
ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm) Paperback £25.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser) £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm) £27.99 ☐
*Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £68.00 ☐ vol. 2 £68.00 ☐ vol. 3 £68.00 ☐ vol. 4 SPECIAL OFFER PRICE FOR ONE MORE MONTH ONLY (FULL PRICE £85.00) £72.00 ☐
Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser) £17.50 ☐
Guest & Hutcheson *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire* (Helm) Paperback £10.99 ☐
*Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic Press) (DUE AUTUMN) £65.00 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00) £10.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press) Hardback £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP) £19.95 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £22.50 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £35.00 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm) Paperback £12.99 ☐
Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £24.99 ☐
Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (RAOU-OUP) £125.00 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page viii to complete your order.

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser)..... £18.00 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm)..... Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (BRITISH BIRDS) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95).... £12.95 ☐
Oliver *Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes* (Oliver)..... £18.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman)..... £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser)..... £16.50 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.)..... vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP)..... £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens)..... £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser)..... £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP)..... £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991..... £75.00 ☐
Simms *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails* (HarperCollins)..... Paperback £14.99 ☐ Hardback £30.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm)..... Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion)..... Paperback £8.75 ☐
Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser)..... £17.00 ☐
*Trodd & Kramer *The Birds of Bedfordshire* (Castlemead)..... £18.95 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990..... £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser)..... £22.50 ☐
Yeatman-Berthelot *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver* (Société Ornithologique de France)..... £46.00 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index)..... £6.95 ☐
Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed)..... £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack)..... £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette)..... £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes)..... £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs..... £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING AUGUST 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.
Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro ac no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address.....

.....Total £..... Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE – TEL 0703 221597

FOR THE LOWEST PRICES & BEST ADVICE

SAME DAY DESPATCH – 14 DAY HOME TRIAL – MAJOR UK STOCKISTS

SCOPES

BAUSCH & LOMB

Elite 77mm Scope Body	£375
Elite 20-60x Zoom	£198
Elite 20x Eyepiece	£149

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle)	£219
TSN-602 Body (straight)	£199
20 x WA	£64
27 x (New) WA	£94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle)	£316
TSN 2 Body (straight)	£316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle)	£636
TSN 4 Body (straight)	£636
20 x WA	£109
25 x	£69
30 x WA	£139
40 x	£69
60 x	£119
77 x	£109
20-60x Zoom	£169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof)	£39.95
Standard Case	£24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm)	£129

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549



Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x £265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x £304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x £379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x £554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x £629.95
Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31
HR Photoadaptor Variable	£33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON PACKAGE DEALS • PHONE FOR UK'S LOWEST PRICES

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Dekarem 10 x 50	~~£119.95~~	£99.95
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£189.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00
Jenoptem 10 x 50		£79.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	£199
8 x 20 BCA	£239
10 x 25 BC	£239
10 x 25 BCA	£255
7 x 42 BA	£649
8 x 42 BA	£649
10 x 42 BA	£649

All normally available in black or green finish.

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£249
10 x 25 B	£269
8 x 20 BGA	£315
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£529
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£699
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style)	£319

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact	£215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism	£365
10 x 25 Roof Prism Compact	£240

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY	£269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA	£199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£649

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
10 x 25 CF III Compact	£112
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199
8 x 40 Sporting II	£119.95
10 x 50 Sporting II	£139.95
7 x 50 Sporting II	£129

MINOLTA

7 x 35 EW	£84.95
8 x 22 Pocket	£79
9 x 24 Pocket	£89
10 x 25 Pocket	£99
8 x 40 STD	£89
10 x 50 STD	£109
7 x 50 STD	£104

ANGENIEUX

8 x 24 F Compact	£249

SECONDHAND

BINOS

Zeiss Jena 10 x 40 BGA Notarem	£149
Swift Skipper 7 x 50 Mk II	£79
Swift Skipper 7 x 50 Mark II	£79
Swift Trilyte Mk III 10 x 40	£79
Tokina 10 x 40 Roof Prism	£79

SCOPES

Opticron 75 c/w 30x Eyepiece	£99

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Slik D3	£89.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95

Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen) 0703 221597/335363

Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

5% RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- Part exchange welcomed.
- Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- Major credit cards accepted.

(D164)

The BIRDS of AFRICA

BROADBILLS TO CHATS
Volume IV *edited by*
Stuart Keith, Emil K. Urban and C.Hilary Fry

By far the most authoritative and comprehensive work ever published on the birds of Africa. The editors and artists have worked closely with the nine authors of this volume - all internationally acknowledged experts on their bird families - to produce encyclopaedic accounts of each species. Volume IV covers the first 312 of the 1200 or so passerine species which occur in continental Africa and its outlying islands. As in the first three volumes, each breeding species receives full coverage with sections on range and status, description, voice, general habits, food and breeding biology. Non-breeding visitors to the continent are treated more briefly with a text concentrating on the birds' status and biology while in Africa. Range maps are shown for each bird and superspecies maps are given where appropriate. Once again Martin Woodcock has done full justice to the brilliant plumages of African birds. The large plates show the birds to their best advantage or adopt a more formal, field guide style to emphasise the identification points of the more difficult groups. Ian Willis's line drawings elaborate on displays and other patterns of behaviour described in the text. The beauty and scholarship of this now standard reference on African birds must ensure its place on every ornithologists book shelf.

To Be Published: July 1992 * c.£85.00
ISBN: 0.12.137304.5
*** A special Introductory Price of £72.00 will apply until September 30th 1992**

Available from all good booksellers or
Academic Press
24-28 Oval Road
London NW1 7DX
Telephone: 071-267-4466

(D163)

FOCALPOINT FIELDSHOWS

The binocular and telescope specialists
THE way to try and buy (10.30am–4pm)

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
MARTIN MERE, Burscough, Lancs (M6, Jct 27).
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th August
Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th September
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October

CHURCH STRETTON. SHROPSHIRE
Sunday 9th August & Sunday 13th September
Westholme, Hazler Road
(in association with MERLIN outdoor clothing)

SALTHOUSE, CLEY, NORFOLK (opp. Duck Pond)
Sunday 23rd August 1992
(come and check out the Cley specials)

All are welcome at these events. They are staffed by experienced birders who will help you choose. Information packs and appointments on request – let us know your specific requirements.

MAJOR ART EVENT AT MARTIN MERE 18th Sept – 18th Oct inclusive



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 Fax: 0606-892207 (D161)

Where to Watch Birds in Wales
2nd edition
David Saunders



The essential guide for resident and visiting birdwatchers. This new edition has been fully updated with a wealth of new information. It follows the successful *Where to Watch Birds* formula; focusing on habitat, species, access, timing and calendar combined wtih lots of practical information.
0 7136 3587 8 · 264 pages · 65 maps and line drawings · paperback
£10.99

A&C Black, Po Box 19, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 3SF
tel: (0480) 212666 fax: (0480) 405014

(D167)

back to the early county ornithologists rather than (as sometimes happens) deciding on a purely recent review.

It is, nevertheless, recent years that inevitably interest most of us most of the time. The book scores very well here, too. Renewed atlas work is currently being completed, so it relies on older (1968-77) mapping studies for breeding birds (Harding 1979, *Bedfordshire Bird Atlas*), but the text is up-to-date, informative and digestible. Winter atlas studies are, of course, more recent (1981-84: Lack 1986, *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland)* and, as one would expect, passage migrants (which include so many of the 'best birds') are given extensive treatment. The species accounts manage to be detailed without getting too 'listy', but there are many lists of records of scarcer species and good counts (for example, all 38 counts of 100 or more Wigeons *Anas penelope* since 1946—it is not a great county for that species!) which add precision to the review. There is a valuable site gazetteer and some useful location maps (for example of the complex of flooded pits west of Bedford).

Even after 14 years, I fit rather uneasily into Bedfordshire, I must admit. All of us, though, have a particular affinity with our native county, its birds and its special sites, and Bedfordshire has plenty of interest. The 267 species in the book make up a decent inland-county list. This book will stimulate me to work harder close to home and should open up new horizons to county residents and visitors, whether they come to look at winter gull roosts, exotic pheasants, downland migrants, a good range of breeding birds or whatever else this land-locked but varied county has to offer.

R. A. HUME

European news

This thirty-first biannual report includes information from a record 34 countries. We are delighted to be able to draw attention to the addition of Iceland and Moldova to the list of countries represented.

New contacts in unrepresented West Palearctic countries will be very welcome. The official correspondents whose detailed six-monthly reports are summarised here are acknowledged at the end. This feature is intended as a news service; anyone requiring further information or quoting records in other publications should refer to the literature of the relevant country.

If you have made observations in any of the countries included here, and do not know to whom records should be sent, we suggest that you send a copy of your records to the relevant 'European news' correspondent listed at the end of this summary; for countries not included here, we suggest that you send them to *British Birds,* and we shall do our best to pass them on to the appropriate person.

Records awaiting formal verification by national rarities committees are indicated by asterisks (*).

Unless otherwise stated, all records refer to single individuals

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* CANARY ISLANDS Second record for Tenerife: winter 1991/92. NETHERLANDS Decrease: 230-250 breeding pairs in 1989, about 150 in 1990 and 90 in 1991 (cf. decline in Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 84: 227).

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* DENMARK First record: Hanstholm, NW-Jutland, on 23rd September 1991*. NORWAY Fifth and sixth records: adult at Utsira, Rogaland, on 10th May 1989, and subadult at Andernes, Andøya, Nordland, on 8th August 1990 (fourth was in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 85: 6).

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* PORTUGAL Second to fifth records: at 40°12'N 10°15'W on 21st August 1987, ten on 6th August 1989 (*Ardeola* 38(1): 150), five between 38°28'N 11°04'W and 38°34'N 10°30'W on 22nd July 1991* and Monte Velho beach, Lagoa de St André, on 14th October 1991* (first was in September 1964, *Ardeola* 11: 59).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* NORWAY Third and fourth records: Eftang, Larvik, Vestfold, on 7th August 1987, and Mølen, Larvik, Vestfold, on 2nd October 1988 (second record was in 1985, *Brit. Birds* 82: 321).

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* SPAIN Breeding confirmed on Minorca: four colonies discovered and population estimated at about 300 pairs in 1991.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* GERMANY Vagrant: Heligoland on 24th September 1988 (*Limicola* 5: 190).

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* ICELAND First record: Bjarnarey, Vestm., on 31st July 1988.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* MOROCCO Third and fifth records: Essaouira in May 1985 and Sidi-Rbat, Oued Massa, on 9th January 1992* (1987 record, *Brit. Birds* 81: 330, becomes fourth).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* BELARUS First winter record: adult at Berioza, Brest region, on 26th January 1988. ITALY First breeding in Piedmont: five pairs (increase for Italian population, about 200 pairs). MOLDOVA Increase: considered rare during 1960-70, but, with establishment of fish-farm in Cahul, increased to 600-650 pairs in 1982, and 1,000-1,200 in 1987. NETHERLANDS Continuing increase: more than 15,000 breeding pairs in 1991. (Cf. increases, colonisation or recolonisation in at least ten other European countries, *Brit. Birds* 84: 227; 85: 6.)

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* EGYPT Third record: two off Salum's cliffs on 28th September 1990.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* AUSTRIA Wintering: at least 11 at River Danube in Lower Austria in winter 1991/92 (now wintering regularly). FRANCE Third record: Camargue on 1st December 1991* (second was also in Camargue, in 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 2). MOLDOVA Increase: first nesting in 1982, near Cahul, with one colony of 30 pairs by 1985; three colonies in 1990, with total of 300-400 pairs (cf. first breeding in Hungary in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 83: 222).

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* AUSTRIA Vagrant: adult at Seewinkel, Burgenland, during 29th April to 3rd May 1991 (probably of wild origin).

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* FRANCE Escapes/vagrants: in Deux-Sèvres on 22nd-23rd and 25th August 1988 and in Alpes-Maritimes on 15th-16th May 1989 (*Alauda* 59: 245), both predating the one in Vendée in April 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 2), but all three considered to be escapes. GERMANY Vagrant: Rheinland-Pfalz on 5th-8th July 1989 (*Limicola* 5: 191).

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* ICELAND Sixth record: found dead on 8th October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 36).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* UKRAINE Census: 40-50 pairs in western Ukraine in 1991.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* FINLAND Fourth record: first-winter at Reisjärvi during 28th September to 21st October 1990.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* BELARUS First record: adult shot in Luninets district, Brest region, in August 1979. LITHUANIA First record: Obelija Lake on 29th May 1971.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* ICELAND Vagrant: 6th June 1983 (*Bliki* 4: 16).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* BELARUS Correction: first record of Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (see above) was incorrectly listed as Little Egret (*Brit. Birds* 84: 227). ICELAND First and second records: during April-May 1985, found dead on 16th June, and on 22nd May 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 37).

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* FRANCE Highest-ever number in Camargue: 98 on 26th January 1991.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* SPAIN Range expansion: first breeding record in Ebro Valley in 1990 and at least 16 successful pairs in two colonies in Navarra province in 1991 (cf. increases and range expansions already noted for Spain and also Italy and Belgium, *Brit. Birds* 84: 228). UKRAINE Census: 2,100-2,400 pairs in western Ukraine in 1989-91, with 30-50 individuals wintering.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* ICELAND First record: 5th October 1983 (*Bliki* 4: 17). NETHERLANDS Decline: 270-290 breeding pairs in 1987-89, about 230 in 1990 and about 190 in 1991.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* MOLDOVA Recolonisation: extinct from 1945 to 1980, when nested near Prut; five pairs during 1989-90, in Straseni and Nisporeni (cf. increase in eastern Germany and recent breeding in Belgium and France, *Brit. Birds* 83: 9).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* GIBRALTAR Second record: two flying south on 15th September 1991* (first was in September 1975). MOROCCO Large winter influx: 25 at Merja Khaloufa on 1st November 1991 and 20 at Massa on 30th December 1991.

Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* MOROCCO Unusually high numbers: 98 at Oued Massa Estuary

on 7th November 1991 and up to 95 on 31st December 1991 (flocks there usually of 10-50).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* CANARY ISLANDS First record: immature found dead on coast of Fuerteventura in March 1991*. EGYPT First record since 1891: Aswan on 3rd May 1990.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* AUSTRIA Continued absence: no breeding record at Lake Neusiedl, Burgenland, in 1991. ITALY Second breeding record: seven pairs at Punta Alberete Reserve, Emilia Romagna, in April 1990.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* FRANCE Escapes/vagrants: in Charente-Maritime in September 1987, in Camargue from 24th September to 6th November 1989, in Ain from 13th April to 10th October 1990 and in Somme from 6th May to 28th July 1990, but all considered to be escapes (*Alauda* 59: 246); these details of the four French records replace those published earlier (*Brit. Birds* 84: 2). GERMANY Escape/vagrant: Hessen on 13th July 1987, but considered to be possible/probable escape (*Limicola* 5: 217; cf. records in Austria and France in 1987, and in France and Spain in 1988, 1989 and 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 228).

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* JORDAN Fourth and fifth records: three adults at Azraq on 14th December 1991, and immature there from 10th January to at least 14th February 1992.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* ICELAND First record: 2nd June to 5th July 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 37).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* BELARUS First to third winter records: adult with Mute Swans *C. olor* near Brest in January-February 1987 and in January-March 1988 and near Grodno on 1st February 1992. SWEDEN Range expansion: about 35 breeding pairs in Uppland province in 1990 survey (compared with 160 pairs of Mute Swans *C. olor* which could in the long term be displaced by Whooper Swans from many inland sites); cf. increase in Finland, colonisation of Latvia, and breeding in Poland and Estonia, *Brit. Birds* 83: 9.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* ICELAND Influx: 25-30 in October 1981 (cf. only two previous Icelandic records; *Bliki* 1: 43-46).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* JORDAN Second record: eight at Azraq on 14th December 1991 (first was in 1979).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* CANARY ISLANDS First record: on Tenerife from 15th December 1991 to at least 20th February 1992.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii* GERMANY Escape/vagrant: two adults in Niedersachsen on 4th-5th May 1988, but considered to be escapes (*Limicola* 4: 189-190). NETHERLANDS Vagrants: two adults in Zuidholland and Friesland in January-March 1989 regarded as probably the same as those in 1988 (*Dutch Birding* 13: 43).

182. Ross's Goose *Anser rossii* amongst Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis*, Netherlands, February 1991 (*Mike Weston*)



Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* BELARUS Second and third records: six adults with Mute Swans *C. olor* near Brest in February-March 1988 and seven adults near Kamenets, Brest region, on 2nd February 1988 (first was near Grodno on 29th January 1983; cf. increase in Finland and records in Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine, *Brit. Birds* 81: 331; 82: 15; 85: 7).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* PORTUGAL Influx: up to 100 in small groups in January 1991 (usually scarce and irregular winter visitor). SLOVENIA Second record: Lake Cernica from 23rd February to 16th March 1990.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* CANARY ISLANDS First record: on Tenerife during January to February 1992. MOROCCO Fourth and fifth records: two of nominate dark-bellied race at Oualidia on 24th January 1992 and ten of same race at Merja Zerga on 29th-30th January 1992 (second was in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 83: 9).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* JORDAN Third record: five at Azraq on 7th February 1992 (first and second were in 1955 and 1979). MOROCCO Large post-breeding concentration: more than 500 on Barrage El Massira, Oued Oum-Er-Rbia, during summer 1991.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* JORDAN Highest-ever count: 3,490 at Azraq on 10th January 1992.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* ICELAND Vagrant: 26th-27th April 1984 (*Bliki* 5: 26).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata* ICELAND First record: two males in Nesjar, A-Skaft., during 18th-20th May 1988.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* FRANCE Amendment: the 1986 record (*Brit. Birds* 80: 322) concerned a subadult male from 28th November to 21st December, and is considered to have been a possible escape (*Alauda* 56: 318).

Gadwall *Anas strepera* UKRAINE Census: 30-50 pairs in western Ukraine in 1990-91.

Teal *Anas crecca* AUSTRIA Second record of Nearctic race *carolinensis*: adult male on 30th November 1991 at Seewinkel, Burgenland. UKRAINE Census: 10-12 pairs in western Ukraine in 1990-91.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* GERMANY Vagrant: Nordrhein-Westfalen on 3rd May 1989 (*Limicola* 5: 193). NETHERLANDS Vagrants: pair in April-May 1987, three males in 1988, in April, April-May and August (*Dutch Birding* 10: 169; 11: 153).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* UKRAINE Census 1990-91: 60-80 pairs in western Ukraine.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* FRANCE Vagrant: Le Quesnoy, Oise, from 22nd August to 1st September 1991*, and in Camargue at the end of August 1991 (cf. increases and range expansions in Spain and Morocco, *Brit. Birds* 85: 2).

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* GERMANY Escape/vagrant: Saarland on 6th-14th March 1987, but considered to be escape (*Limicola* 4: 191). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* MOROCCO Only recent breeding record: at least three pairs nesting in lower Loukkos Valley, near Larache, in April 1991. UKRAINE Census: 35-40 pairs in western Ukraine (mainly concentrated in Volyn, Rivno and Lviv region) in 1990-91.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* SPAIN First breeding record: three young raised at Rosarito Dam, in the Tagus Valley, in 1988.

Eider *Somateria mollissima* UKRAINE First summer record in western Ukraine: adult at Pulemecke Lake in Shack National Park, Volyn Region, on 10th July 1987.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* LATVIA Second record: six males on eastern coast of Riga Bay on 3rd September 1991* (first record concerned female in 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 228).

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* ICELAND First, second and third records: 5th-16th June 1981, 2nd July 1986 and 30th October to 19th November 1989 (*Bliki* 1: 22; 7: 29; 11: 39).

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* GERMANY Vagrant: Schleswig-Holstein on 20th March 1989 (*Limicola* 5: 194).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* FRANCE Increased wintering records: at least two separate flocks of 37 in baie de Douarnenez, Finistère, and Vilaine Estuary, Morbihan, in January 1992 (and many inland records).

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* ICELAND Second record: 15th May 1988 to at least 29th December 1990 (*Bliki* 10: 23; 11: 39; first was in November 1956).

Hooded Merganser *Mergus cucullatus* GERMANY Escape/vagrant: in Schleswig-Holstein on 17th-29th December 1984, but considered probably to be escape (*Limicola* 3: 168). ICELAND First record: male on Heimaey, Vestm., from about 7th-17th June 1988 (other recent records have included Norway 1985, 1986, 1991, Finland May and October-November 1989, and individuals considered perhaps to

have been escapes in France 1990 and the UK 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 325; 84: 4, 228).

Goosander *Mergus merganser* SLOVENIA First breeding record: female with six young at Lake Zbilje in June 1991 (cf. recent first breeding records in Ukraine and Belarus, and range expansion in Austria and Czechoslovakia, *Brit. Birds* 83: 224; 85: 7).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* FINLAND Second record: male at Espoo during 29th June to 20th July 1991* (first was in 1989, *Brit. Birds* 84: 4). ICELAND Vagrants: flocks at two localities in 1984 (*Bliki* 5: 28).

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* GERMANY Vagrants: Schleswig-Holstein on 18th-20th April 1989 and 25th-27th December 1989 (*Limicola* 5: 194). NETHERLANDS Ninth and tenth records: females or immatures in Zuidholland during 9th December 1988 to 8th March 1989 and in Limburg on 22nd January 1989 (*Dutch Birding* 11: 153; 13: 44). SPAIN Continuing increase: 545 individuals in 1991 (from only 22 in 1977).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* GERMANY Vagrants: Saarland on 11th August 1984, Hessen on 19th April 1987, and Niedersachsen on 1st June 1989 (*Limicola* 3: 169; 4: 192; 5: 194).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* MOROCCO Southward extension of breeding range: pair at nest on electricity pylon about 50 km south of Goulimine on 31st March 1991.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* ICELAND First record: 24th October 1982 (*Bliki* 3: 24).

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* GERMANY Vagrant: two adults and one immature in Bayern on 17th June 1988 (*Limicola* 5: 194). POLAND Fifth record: adult at Karlino, near Koszalin, on 1st June 1991 (first since 1936).

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* MALTA Second record: two in October 1991 (first was in 1847).

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* BELARUS Population estimate: 200-250 pairs during 1987-91, at least 60 of which in Poozerie (northern lake region).

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* EGYPT Vagrant: juvenile at Ras Mohammed on 18th June 1988 and it or another at Sharm El Sheikh on 1st January 1989 (perhaps same individual as seen in Eilat, Israel, in April/May 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 10).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* NORWAY Fourth breeding record: pair raised three young in Østfold county in summer 1990 (previous breeding records were in Vest-Agder county: two young reared in 1975; two young reared in 1976; nest built in 1978; attempted breeding in 1977 and 1979). SPAIN Census: 417-448 breeding pairs (far more than previous estimates) in 1990.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* ICELAND First record: 17th June 1982 (*Bliki* 3: 24).

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* AUSTRIA Small influx: seven records, concerning at least three individuals, in eastern Austria in 1991.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* SPAIN Census: 1,265 pairs and 'population apparently stable' in 1987-88.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* EGYPT First record outside usual range: adult male at Gebel Silsila near River Nile, about 40 km north of Aswan, on 16th April 1990 (rare resident breeder in Gebel Elba region and in South Sinai).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* ICELAND First and second records: adult males on 26th-27th July 1980 and 20th April 1981 (*Bliki* 4: 57-67).

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae* SWEDEN Fourth and fifth records: Skanör on 4th September 1988 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 452) and Åhus, Scania, on 24th July 1991* (third was in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 324).

Saker *Falco cherrug* FRANCE Fifth record this century: Orx, Landes, from beginning of November 1991 to at least February 1992*.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* SWEDEN Breeding numbers increasing: 30 pairs in 1991.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* UKRAINE First winter record in western Ukraine: Poltva River, Lviv region, in January 1992.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* ICELAND Fifth record: 23rd-28th June 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 42).

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrula alleni* CANARY ISLANDS First and second records: immatures on Fuerteventura in December 1990 and on Tenerife in December 1991*. GERMANY Vagrant: Schleswig-Holstein on 14th December 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 171).

American Purple Gallinule *Porphyrula martinica* ICELAND Vagrant: 26th June 1983 (*Bliki* 4: 23).

Crested Coot *Fulica cristata* SPAIN Population estimate: 50 adults, 35 in Cádiz province, in 1990.

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* NETHERLANDS First record: Paesens, Friesland, on 28th-30th

September 1991 (cf. Shetland record in September 1991, *Brit. Birds* 85: 104). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* CANARY ISLANDS Census: 60-67 of Canary Island race *fuertaventurae* on Lanzarote in April 1991 (total greatly exceeds previous population estimates).

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* MOROCCO Confirmed presence: small flocks regularly reported in Tangier Peninsula, with up to 20 males on 1st February 1992, despite increasing human disturbance.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africana* GERMANY Escapes/vagrants: Schleswig-Holstein on 14th June 1988, and lst-25th August 1988, considered to be escapes (*Limicola* 4: 192). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Near extinction: only one pair confirmed breeding near Znojmo, southern Moravia, in 1991 (not more than one to five pairs annually; cf. extinction/near extinction in eastern Germany and Belarus, *Brit. Birds* 85: 8).

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* POLAND First record: adult at Vistula mouth during 27th October to 21st November 1991; origin unknown. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* AUSTRIA Second record: Rheindelta, Vorarlberg, on 25th September 1991.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* ICELAND Vagrant: 8th October 1983 (*Bliki* 4: 24).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* SWEDEN Fifth record: Utlängan on 26th July 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 20).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* DENMARK First record: adult at Bygholmsengen, NW-Jutland, on 19th August 1991*. ICELAND First to seventh records: 5th May 1979, 20th May 1980, 19th October 1980, 26th October 1980, 11th August 1981 and 8th August 1984 (*Bliki* 1: 25; 5: 29) and Garðskagi, Gull., on 8th-15th September 1990*. SWEDEN Sixth record: Skanör, Scania, around 20th July 1991*.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* EGYPT Second and third records: two at Zaranik on 18th and 21st August 1990, and one at Lake Qarun on 15th September 1990 (first was in April 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 6). FINLAND Correction: reports from Tauvo and Jurmo in September 1990 never submitted, so record at Närpiö in September 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 85: 8) becomes ninth. FRANCE Deletions: one in September 1990 and one in May 1991 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 230; 85: 8) not accepted. GERMANY Vagrant: Schleswig-Holstein on 30th July to 6th August 1988 (*Limicola* 4: 193); this record predates the two already published (*Brit. Birds* 83: 11). SWEDEN Ninth record: Västergarn on 20th September 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 20).

American/Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica/fulva* NORWAY Sixth record: individual not specifically identified at Utsira, Rogaland, on 22nd September 1990 (there are accepted records of two American Golden Plovers and three Pacific Golden Plovers). POLAND All four records of *P. fulva* and one of *P. dominica* now considered indeterminate *P. dominica/fulva*.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Hoplopterus indicus* ISRAEL First record: Eilat from 28th December 1991 to 17th February 1992 (plate 186): first record for Western Palearctic outside breeding range. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

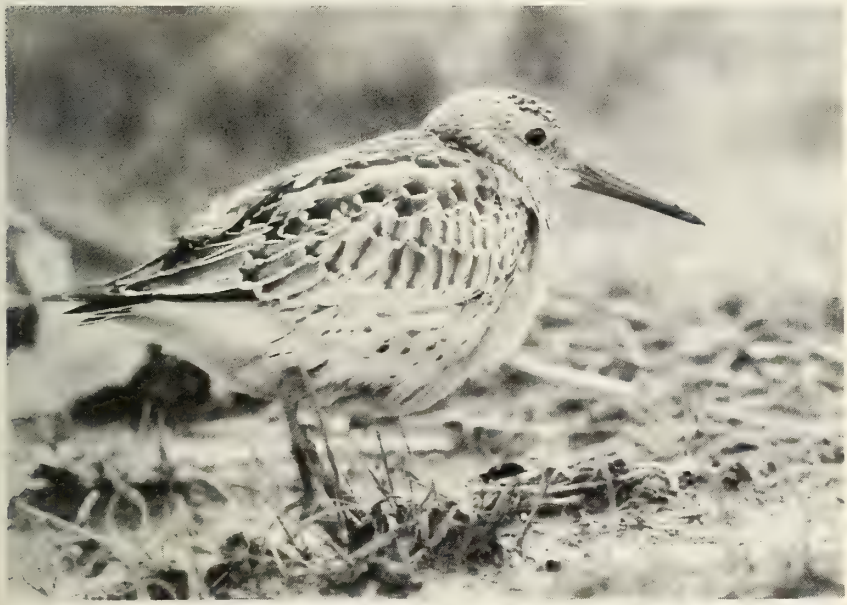
Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria* FINLAND Third record: one incubating two eggs (never hatched) in Pori during 6th May to 13th June 1990 (first and second were in 1951 and 1988, *Brit. Birds* 83: 11). FRANCE Vagrants: Nangis, Seine-et-Marne, on 30th September 1989*, Hénaménil, Meurthe-et-Moselle, during 10th October to 12th November 1989*, and Indre-et-Loire on 1st December 1989*. SWEDEN First record: Hjälstaviken on 23rd May 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 470) predating two in Scania from 28th May 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 11), which becomes second record.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* NETHERLANDS First record: juvenile at Oostvaardersdijk, Flevoland, on 19th-25th September 1991, and same individual at Camperduin, Noordholland, from 29th September to 6th October 1991 (plates 183 & 184)(only previous European records were in Spain in 1979, Morocco in 1980, Israel in 1985, eastern Germany and Norway in 1987 and Scotland in 1989, *Brit. Birds* 78: 342; 81: 333; 83: 12; 84: 469; 85: 426-429).

Sanderling *Calidris alba* JORDAN Second record: Qasr Burqu on 22nd September 1991 (first was in 1964).

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* FRANCE Fourth and fifth records: Ouessant,

Finistère, on 16th-17th June 1989, and Nérizelec on 21st-26th September 1991* (third was in September 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 325). ICELAND First to third records: immature on 1st October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 43), adult at Hafurbjarnastaðir á Miðnesi, Gull., on 8th July 1990* and immature at first locality on 15th October 1991*. SPAIN First record: juvenile at Malpica de Bergantiños, La Coruña, on 5th October 1991*, and, probably same, on 7th-10th October 1991* at nearby Ensenadede la Insua.



183 & 184. Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*, Netherlands, October 1991 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*)



Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* SWEDEN Fourth record: Grängesberg on 1st August 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 470).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* GERMANY Vagrant: Niedersachsen on 20th-21st September 1985 (*Limicola* 3: 172-173). ICELAND Third record: Gerðar i Garði, Gull., on 23rd September 1990*.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* DENMARK Fourth record: Tipperne, W-Jutland, on 30th May 1984 (*Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidsskr.* 85: 25; those in July 1985 and July 1986, *Brit. Birds* 82: 325, become fifth and sixth). GERMANY Vagrants: Schleswig-Holstein on 29th May 1979, Baden-Württemberg on 14th October 1984, and Niedersachsen on 30th-31st May 1985 and 23rd-25th May 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 173). ICELAND Vagrants: three in August 1981, one on 17th October 1982, five in 1983, one on 16th July and four in October, and two in September 1984 (*Bliki* 1: 26; 3: 26; 4: 24; 5: 30); thirty-fifth record: 8th October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 43). NORWAY Third record (excluding Spitsbergen): Grudavatn, Klepp, Rogaland, during 24th August to 1st September 1984 (two records in July 1987 now become fourth and fifth, *Brit. Birds* 82: 325; 83: 225). SPAIN Sixth record: juvenile at Traba Lagoon, La Coruña province, on 21st-22nd October 1989* (fourth and fifth were in October 1987, *Brit. Birds* 82: 18).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* FRANCE Seventh and eighth records: Camargue on 18th September 1991* and Trunvel, Finistère, on 27th-29th September 1991*. GERMANY Vagrant: Baden-Württemberg on 2nd-5th August 1984 (*Limicola* 5: 198). SWEDEN Fourth record: Torhamns udde, Blekinge, on 25th July 1991* (third was in October-November 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 225).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Sixth record: Rozkos Reservoir, near Ceská Skalice, eastern Bohemia, in October 1989 (fifth was in September 1987, *Brit. Birds* 83: 225). DENMARK Twelfth record: Vejlerne, N-Jutland, on 9th-12th June 1989 (three have been in May, one in June, three in July, two in August and three in September, *Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidsskr.* 85: 25). FRANCE Vagrants: 14 in 1989 and five in August-October 1990, compared with previous peaks of 17 in 1973, 21 in 1984 and 19 in 1985 (*Alauda* 59: 234). GERMANY Vagrants: two in 1975, one in 1978, one in 1979, one in 1980, two in 1982, four in 1983, five in 1984, two in 1986, one in 1987, two in 1988 and two in 1989, with five in May, four in July, three in August, eight in September and three in October (*Limicola* 3: 173; 4: 194; 5: 198). HUNGARY Third record: juvenile in the Hortobágy on 6th-7th October 1991 (first and second were in September/October 1987 and 1988, *Brit. Birds* 84: 230). ICELAND Vagrants: 30th August to 6th September 1981, 7th July 1983 and 25th-28th September 1983 (*Bliki* 1: 26; 4: 25); fifteenth to eighteenth records: singly in May and July and two in October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 43). ITALY Fourth record: mouth of Imera's River, Sicily, on 20th March 1984. NETHERLANDS Vagrants: one in 1987, five in 1988 and five in 1989, bringing total to 35, seven in May-June, 27 in July-September and one in November (*Dutch Birding* 10: 170; 11: 154; 13: 45-46). SWEDEN Vagrants: three in 1988, one in May and two in August, five in 1989, one in May and four in August-October, and three in 1990, singly in May, July and September, bringing total to 60 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 453; 49: 471; 50(8): 21). SWITZERLAND Thirteenth record: near Nuolen, Lake of Zürich, on 11th-16th October 1988.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* GREECE First record for Peloponnese: Alyki Lagoon, Aejion, on 13th August 1989. MOROCCO Second record: Oued Sous on 4th January 1992*.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* FRANCE Second to fourth records: adult at marais d'Olonne, Vendée, on 5th-6th August 1991*, juveniles at Plovan, Finistère, on 17th September 1991* and at Ouessant on 26th September 1991* (first was in July 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 225). ICELAND First record: adult male on 17th June 1985 (*Bliki* 4: 57-67).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* FINLAND Sixth record: Jurmo bird observatory on 11th-12th May 1990 (fifth was in September 1988, *Brit. Birds* 83: 12). FRANCE Vagrants: juveniles in Finistère on 11th-18th September 1989 and in Vendée on 8th-10th September 1990 (*Alauda* 59: 235). GERMANY Vagrants: two together in 1978 (already noted, *Brit. Birds* 72: 278), one in 1981, two together in 1982, one in 1983 (already noted, *Brit. Birds* 79: 287), three in 1985, one in 1986 and two in 1987, singly in May, July, three in August, six in September and one in October (*Limicola* 3: 174; 4: 194; 5: 199). NETHERLANDS Fifth and sixth records: adults in Zuidholland on 16th-19th August 1986 and in Groningen on 18th-19th October 1988 (*Dutch Birding* 10: 170; 11: 154). POLAND Eighth and ninth records: Turawa Reservoir near Opole on 27th July 1989, and Turawa Reservoir on 30th September 1990 (seventh was in August 1988, *Brit.*

FREE PAGER: Win one at our stand at the RUTLAND BIRD FAIR

SPECIAL AUGUST OFFERS including
NOW! NEW ECONOMICAL
NUMERIC
PAGERS

RELIABLE
COMPREHENSIVE

THE BEST

RARE BIRD ALERT
BIRD PAGERS



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS FOR YOURSELF:

The BEST news service

There's no longer any need to wonder WHAT the latest bird news is; WHEN you're going to find out (or even HOW MUCH you'll spend finding it).

Simply read all the news, as it happens, on a Rare Bird Alert message pager, including updates, directions, and negative news.

It's reliable, comprehensive and extremely cost effective, with no nasty surprises when the bills come in.

For an info pack with a sample print-out of a days messages and an order form:
call **Dick Filby** on 0603 767799 or call Inter-City, **Free**, and ask for Rare Bird Alert

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

INTER-CITY PAGING



RSPB

BRITISH
BIRDWATCHING
FAIR

LRTNC

EGLETON NATURE RESERVE,
RUTLAND WATER
Nr Oakham, Leicestershire
Friday 4th, to Sunday 6th
September, 1992

Open 10-5.30 daily. Entrance £5 per adult, children free, 3-day pass £7.

1992 EVENT SUPPORTING
ICBP SPANISH STEPPES APPEAL

Main sponsors and co-organisers

in focus

Sponsored By

The Bird & Wildlife Bookshop

Sponsored By

Anglian Water


For ALL the Rare Bird News phone
BIRDLINE
0891 700 222
24-hour bird news
simply available to any caller
News you can trust from the team you know
To report your sightings, phone 0263 741140
BIRD INFORMATION SERVICE, CLEY, NORFOLK NR25 7RZ
ALL CALLS 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE, 48p/MIN PEAK/STD INC VAT
(D172)


THE ALL NEW INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE
RARE BIRD NEWS
0881 888 111
THE CHEAPEST & BEST VALUE BIRDLINE
CALLS COST 25p/MINUTE CHEAP RATE
RING US AND SAVE £££'s
WHY PAY MORE ON HIGHER PREMIUM RATES?
HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS ON LOCAL RATES
FROM ANYWHERE IN THE U.K. 0426 923 923
JOIN OUR NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF NEWS PROVIDERS
RARE BIRD NEWS IS HELPING CONSERVATION
ENQUIRIES: BIRDING U.K. 146 KEW ROAD, RICHMOND, LONDON TW9 2AU
CALLS TO 0881 NO'S CHARGED AT 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES INC. VAT
(D100)

Birds 82: 326). PORTUGAL First record: ringed at Alvor in the Algarve on 7th-25th September 1990. SWEDEN Twelfth and thirteenth records: Falsterbo on 1st October 1988 and Ottenby on 5th-14th October 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 453; 49: 471).

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* GERMANY Vagrant: Niedersachsen on 9th-16th October 1981 (*Limicola* 3: 174).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* FINLAND Fifth record: juvenile in Pori on 18th-20th September 1990 (fourth was in September 1984, *Brit. Birds* 78: 342). FRANCE Nineteenth and twentieth records: juvenile in Loire-Atlantique on 30th September to 2nd October 1990 (*Alauda* 59: 235) and adult at Dunkerque, Nord, on 4th-7th May 1991*. GERMANY Vagrant: West Berlin on 25th September 1984 (*Limicola* 3: 174). NETHERLANDS Correction and additional information: record during 11th-30th July (*Brit. Birds* 82: 326) referred to 1987, not 1986 (*Dutch Birding* 10: 170), and what may have been the same individual was seen again at Lauwersmeer, Groningen, on 4th-7th May 1988 and 11th-16th May 1989; adult at same locality on 3rd-5th November 1989 may have been different (*Dutch Birding* 11: 154; 13: 46). SWEDEN Tenth record: Öland on 13th-21st October 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 21; there were singles in 1959, 1961 and 1966, four in 1978, one in 1986, and ninth was in October-November 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 333).

Dowitcher *Limnodromus* MOROCCO Vagrant wintering: Oued Massa estuary during December 1987 to January 1988.

Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* GREECE Up to three at Evros Delta on 11th April 1988 (there had been seven on 4th April, *Brit. Birds* 85: 9). HUNGARY Singles at Sárkeresztúr on 19th May 1991 and in the Hortobágy on 27th October 1991, and three near Balmazújváros on 31st October 1991, two remaining until 1st November 1991. MOROCCO Two at Merja Zerga from 23rd October 1991, up to five from 1st November to 30th December 1991, two remaining to 30th January 1992 (highest numbers in recent years). (We are publishing all records received of this species.)

Curlew *Numenius arquata* ICELAND Second breeding record in Northeast Iceland: summer 1988. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* NORWAY Fourth record: Gaulosen, Sør-Trøndelag, on 4th May 1987 (record in June 1987, *Brit. Birds* 82: 326, becomes fifth).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* FRANCE Twenty-second to twenty-fourth records: in Morbihan on 23rd-24th August 1988, in Vendée on 9th-24th October 1990 (*Alauda* 59: 236) and at Blanzy, Saône-et-Loire, on 7th September 1991*. ICELAND Vagrant: 8th September 1984 (*Bliki* 5: 32). NETHERLANDS First and second records: Zeeland on 18th-19th November 1979 (*Dutch Birding* 13: 48) and Zierikzee, Zeeland, on 7th-11th October 1991. SWEDEN Fourth record: Ottenby on 1st June 1990* (*Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 22; third was in November 1985, *Brit. Birds* 79: 287).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* UKRAINE Census: 230-240 pairs in western Ukraine in 1990-91.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* ICELAND First confirmed breeding record: Mývatn in June-July 1981 (*Bliki* 1: 25).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* ICELAND Fourth record: 21st May 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 45). UKRAINE First winter record in western Ukraine: Ivano-Frankovo, Lviv Region, in December 1990.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* CANARY ISLANDS Fourth record: south of La Gomera on 16th November 1991*. GERMANY Vagrant: Baden-Württemberg on 13th May 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 175). ICELAND Vagrant: 28th July 1984 (*Bliki* 5: 32).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* FINLAND Fourth record: first-winter, Lappeenranta during 14th-17th September 1989 (all previous records were adults in May to June; third was in 1985, *Brit. Birds* 78: 641). FRANCE Vagrants: three in 1990, in July, September and September-October (*Alauda* 59: 236). GERMANY Vagrants: one in 1974, two in 1977 (one already noted, *Brit. Birds* 70: 495), and singly in 1978, 1979, 1982 and 1984, three in May, and singly in June, July, September and October (*Limicola* 3: 176). NETHERLANDS Vagrants: two in 1985, in July and September, three in 1987, two in April and one in June (*Dutch Birding* 10: 171), and one on 10th May 1988 (*Dutch Birding* 11: 154), bringing total to 15 (not 14 as noted *Brit. Birds* 82: 326).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* DENMARK Large influx: more than 100 (mainly juveniles) in September 1991. FRANCE Highest-ever passage during autumn 1991*: at least 140 (95% juveniles), mainly at Dunkerque, Nord, with at least ten inland, from end of August to beginning of September

1991 (compared with usual average of six annually). MOROCCO Fourth record this century: adult off Oued Sebou Estuary, Méhdya, on 3rd December 1991. SWEDEN Highest-ever numbers: over 200, at least 100 recorded inland, during autumn 1991* (in 1988 invasion, most records were along West Coast). (Cf. highest-ever numbers on British North Sea coast in September 1991, *Brit. Birds* 85: 102.)

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* EGYPT First record: intermediate morph off Hurghada, on way to Giftun Saghir Island, on 10th June 1991. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* ITALY Population decrease: 867 pairs in Comacchio Valley in 1990. LATVIA Third record: two immatures at Pape on 3rd September 1991* (first and second were in 1970 and 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 7). NETHERLANDS Continuing increase: about 125 breeding pairs in 1991, of which 60 in one colony in Zeeland (cf. total of 90 pairs in 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 230). SWEDEN Highest-ever numbers: at least 13 records during June-November 1991* (about 70 previous records).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* FRANCE Eighth to tenth records: Goulven, Finistère, on 23rd August 1988*, juvenile at Ouessant on 28th August 1988*, and Port-Bail, Manche, on 18th September 1988* (seventh was in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 334). ICELAND Sixth record: first-winter on 28th October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 46).

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* GERMANY Vagrant: Niedersachsen on 20th-24th September 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 177). ICELAND First record: 21st-26th September 1984 (*Bliki* 5: 32). SWEDEN Seventh record: Tenhult, Småland, on 19th-21st July 1991* (fifth and sixth were in April and May 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 18).

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Second record: immature on Novomlynské Jezero Lake, southern Moravia, on 16th February 1990 (first was in December 1985, *Brit. Birds* 80: 12). FINLAND Third record: juvenile at Orimattila (150 km inland) on 15th-28th September 1991* (first and second were in 1929 and 1982, *Brit. Birds* 77: 237).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* ICELAND Vagrants: 4th October 1981 and 12th June 1983 (*Bliki* 1: 27; 4: 26). PORTUGAL First to third records: adult between Carcavelos and Caxias on 28th February to 8th April 1980, adult in same area on 3rd February to 30th March 1991* and first-winter near Cascais (20 km west of Lisboa) from 12th February to 8th March 1991*. SWEDEN First record: Getterön on 1st February 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 22).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* ITALY Population decrease: 257 pairs in Comacchio Valley in 1990.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* CANARY ISLANDS Breeding absence: pair at former breeding site on Fuerteventura in February 1991, but none during June and only one adult in mid July. GERMANY Vagrant: Rheinland-Pfalz on 23rd June 1989 (*Limicola* 5: 204). SLOVENIA Second record: Secovlje salinas from 10th March to 7th April 1991.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* MOROCCO Large winter concentration: 916 at Khnifiss Lagoon on 29th December 1991.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* FRANCE Influx: immature at Ile d'Olonne, Vendée, on 11th April 1990* and up to 19 along Atlantic coasts and one in Paris, with maximum of five together at Cap Breton/Hossegor, Landes, from beginning of December 1991* to February 1992*. ICELAND Twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth records: 2nd May 1989 and 28th-31st October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 46). MOROCCO Sixth to eleventh records: first-winter in Agadir harbour on 27th December 1988*, Oued Sous estuary on 7th February 1989, first-winters into first-summers at Oued Massa estuary from 24th January to 2nd April 1990, at Oued Sous estuary on lst-2nd April 1990, adults at Oued Loukkos estuary on 2nd January 1992 and at Oualidia (possibly same individual) on 14th-17th January 1992 (fifth was in January 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 19). NORWAY Fifth and seventh records: second-winter at Mølen, Larvik, Vestfold, on 13th December 1986, and first-winter on 3rd October 1987 (January 1987 record, *Brit. Birds* 83: 12, becomes sixth). SWEDEN Fourth and fifth records: Getterön, Halland, on 9th May 1991 and 31st October 1991* (third was in July 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 18).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA First breeding record: nest with two eggs destroyed at Novomlynské Jezero Lake, southern Moravia, in May 1990. ITALY Population increase of race *michahellis*: 648 pairs in Comacchio Valley in 1990.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* EGYPT First record: adult 12 km south of Hurghada on 22nd January 1989, reported without details (*OSME Bull.* 26: 32-36).

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* ESTONIA First

record: near Tallinn on 23rd-24th May 1988 (cf. May 1988 records in Denmark and Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 82: 19).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* EGYPT First summer record: second-summer on Lake Bardawil, North Sinai, on 14th July 1990.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* CZECHOSLOVAKIA First record: Opatovicky Pond, Trebon, southern Bohemia, on 16th May 1991.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* SLOVENIA Second record: Ljubljansko barje on 25th May 1990.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* ITALY Confirmed breeding: pair in Comacchio Valley in 1990.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* ITALY Population increase: 496 pairs in Comacchio Valley in 1990 (steady increase since 1979).

Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans* FRANCE Individual from Arcachon Sandwich Tern *S. sandvicensis* colony, Gironde, at Saint-Nazaire, Loire-Atlantique, 300 km north of colony, on 22nd August 1991*.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* ITALY Population decrease: 1,257 pairs in Comacchio Valley in 1990 (cf. 1,820 pairs in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 19).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* HUNGARY First and second records: first-winter at Szeged-Fertö on 10th-14th October 1991 and adult winter in the Hortobágy on 8th November 1991.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* FRANCE Fourth record: adult off cap Gris-Nez, Pas-de-Calais, on 18th August 1991* (cf. Isles of Scilly record in August 1991, *Brit. Birds* 84: 107; third French record was in May 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 7).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* EGYPT Southernmost breeding: six pairs nesting on small island near Abu Simbel on 15th June 1990 (normally breeds along Mediterranean coast and on northern Delta lakes). ITALY Population increase: 1,773 pairs in Comacchio Valley in 1990 (second-best breeding year since 1977). MOROCCO First inland breeding: colony of about 15 pairs with eggs at Barrage El Massira, Oued Oum Er Rbia, on 18th June 1991.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* ICELAND First breeding records: summer 1983, but nest destroyed by high tide in late July; summer 1984, one young hatched from nest within colony of Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea*, but probably died (*Blika* 2: 48-55; 4: 26, 39; 5: 3-5, 34, 46).

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* EGYPT Twenty at Abu Simbel on lst-3rd May 1991 (also recorded in June).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* GIBRALTAR Third record: 10th-15th October 1991* (second was in April 1991, *Brit. Birds* 85: 9). PORTUGAL First record in the Algarve: Salir Algarve on 20th April 1991 (breeding recorded in northern Portugal and south to Lisboa, with recent observations at Troia, Setúbal). TUNISIA First record: 14 regularly in Bizerte, North Tunisia, since mid December 1991. (Cf. colonisation and expansion in Spain and Morocco, *Brit. Birds* 84: 7.)

Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* EGYPT First record: Abu Simbel on 20th November 1990 (*Courser* 3: 20-21). FRANCE First record: immature on Ouessant, Finistère, on 10th-12th October 1991*. SWEDEN Wintering again: individual wintering for eighth successive year at Mörbylånga, Öland, from 10th October 1991* onwards.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* FRANCE Escape/vagrant: male singing in Nord on 6th August 1989, considered to be likely escape but a possible candidate for full acceptance (*Alauda* 59: 246); cf. October 1989 record (*Brit. Birds* 83: 226; *Alauda* 58: 265).

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* EGYPT Fourth record for Sinai: Nuweiba, South Sinai, on 26th April 1990.

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* ICELAND Vagrant: 21st-25th October 1982 (*Blika* 3: 29).

Striated Scops Owl *Otus brucei* ISRAEL Twelfth record: Eilat on 22nd-23rd January 1990. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 400-700 pairs in 1985-89.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 600-950 pairs in 1985-89.

Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 900-1,300 pairs in 1985-89.

Little Owl *Athene noctua* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 700-1,100 pairs in 1985-89.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 6,000-9,000 pairs in 1985-89. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: one to five pairs in 1985-89.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 4,000-7,000 pairs in 1985-89.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: up to five pairs in 1985-89.

Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Breeding population estimate: 550-800 pairs in 1985-89.

Needle-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus* FINLAND Third record: Hanko on 5th May 1991 (first and second were in 1933 and 1990, *Brit. Birds* 85: 10).

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* SWEDEN First record: Falsterbo, Scania, on 3rd July 1991*.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* ICELAND First and second records: 15th April 1980 and 16th June 1981 (*Bliki* 4: 57-67).

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* EGYPT Third record of blue-headed race *cyanophrys*: two 25 km south of Taba, South Sinai, on 26th April 1990.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* FINLAND First record: Sodankylä on 7th-9th July 1991*.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* CANARY ISLANDS First record for La Gomera: flying over laurel forest in July 1991. ICELAND First record: 8th-15th June 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 48).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* SWEDEN Breeding record: pair bred on Gotland (has bred annually on Öland since 1986).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* FRANCE Winter record: Mousterlin, Finistère, from 4th to at least 26th January 1992.

Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni* EGYPT Third record: seven 43 km south of El Arish on 29th August 1991 (cf. first and second records in 1981 and 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 9; *OSME Bull.* 25: 27-28).

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* SWEDEN Correction: record on 10th October 1988 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 14) was third, not second (cf. *Brit. Birds* 80: 13; *Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 455).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* SWEDEN Highest-ever numbers: five during spring 1991 and six during July-October 1991.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* NETHERLANDS Continuing decrease: fewer than 400 breeding pairs estimated in 1991 and almost disappeared from northern provinces (3,000-5,000 pairs in 1979 and 1,000-2,000 pairs in 1985-86; cf. declines in western Germany and Sweden and extinction in Switzerland, *Brit. Birds* 85: 10).

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae* EGYPT First record since 1931: pair 10 km east of Salum on 11th September 1991 and six at the same locality on 18th September 1991. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* EGYPT First record: two near Sharm El Sheikh on 14th October 1990 (*Courser* 3: 20-21).

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* ICELAND First record: adult male 'collected' on 17th November 1981 (*Bliki* 1: 30, 40-41). UKRAINE Invasion: flocks of hundreds from January 1991 onwards in Volyn Region.

Brown-throated Sand Martin *Riparia paludicola* EGYPT First record: two at Suez on 20th April 1990 (not May 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 9; *Dutch Birding* 13: 98-99).

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* ICELAND First record: Selfoss, Arn., on 3rd-9th June 1988. NORWAY Fifth and seventh records: Eie, Egersund, Rogaland, on 7th June 1984, and adult at Moldstad, Smøla, Møre & Romsdal, on 22nd June 1988 (record in May 1988, *Brit. Birds* 83: 227, now becomes sixth). POLAND Third record: adult at Zgliniec, near Leszno, on 6th May 1991 (first and second were in 1982 and 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 335).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* FRANCE Vagrants: four in September-October 1990, compared with seven (including one on 8th May) in 1988 and the peak of 20 in 1970 (*Alauda* 59: 240). GERMANY Vagrants: three individuals in 1981, and singly in 1984, 1985 and 1986, singly in April, May, September and December, and two in October (*Limicola* 3: 187); eight individuals in 1987, two in September, five in October and one in December; ten individuals in 1988, one in April, four in September, three in October and two in November (*Limicola* 4: 202); and seven individuals in 1989, two in May, four in October and one from 12th December to 1st January 1990 (*Limicola* 5: 210). MOROCCO Tenth to thirteenth records: Douyiet on 24th January

185. Top, male White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*, Netherlands, November 1986 (*René van Rossum*)

186. Bottom, Red-wattled Lapwing *Hoplopterus indicus*, Israel, December 1991 (*Hadoram Shirihai*)









187 & 188. Black-throated Thrushes *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis*: left, Denmark, December 1991 (*Jens Fromsejer Thomsen*); right, Germany, February 1992 (*E. A. J. Opperman*)



189. Juvenile Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, Finland, 5th July 1991 (*Petri Rissanen*)(see also plate 191)

190. Adult female Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*, Finland, October/November 1991 (*Jouni Riihimaki*)



The inclusion of plates 185-190 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

(D145)

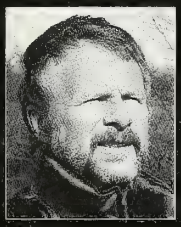
Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

DPA

NEW VISION



MADE BY LEICA



"You've got to hand it to Leica... these superb binos are a real eye opener." BILL ODDIE

At first sight an exemplary, functional and timelessly beautiful design. On second sight a convincing and superior optical performance. A long-term view observes and confirms the unsurpassed reliability of precision mechanics. The new binocular generation from Leica. Made for the demanding observer who wishes to sweep the horizon yet never miss the nearby detail. There is a choice of three outstanding models. The universal and popular LEICA 8 x 42, the powerful LEICA 10 x 42 and the brilliant professional binocular LEICA 7 x 42.

Leica

The freedom to see

For further information about Leica products and a list of dealers, send the coupon to Leica, PO Box 10, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9BT. Telephone and Service enquiries (0908) 666663.

LEICA Binoculars ☐ LEICA Compact Binoculars ☐ LEICA Cameras M6 ☐ R ☐ Compact ☐

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone _____

LBB0892

(D162)

1989*, up to 13 at Merja Zerga, from at least 6th December 1989 to 13th January 1990, Tamri on 1st January 1991 and Khnifiss Lagoon, Tarfaya, on 27th March 1991 (southernmost record); also two in January 1992, at Oued Massa and Oued Loukkos. SWEDEN Vagrants: 51 in September-November 1988 and 16 in September-October 1989, taking grand total to 210 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 456; 49: 474).

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* BELGIUM First record: trapped at De Moeren on 16th November 1986 (cf. three in Finland in October-November 1986, *Brit. Birds* 80: 326).

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* FRANCE Fourth record: Ouessant, Finistère, on 20th October 1991* (third was in 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 227). SWEDEN Fourth record: Stenåsabadet, Öland, on 14th October 1991* (third was in October 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 233).

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* SWEDEN First record: Stora Fjäderägg, Västerbotten, on 5th-20th September 1991*.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* ICELAND Third and fourth records: 5th October 1983 and 21st October 1989 (*Bliki* 4: 28; 11: 50). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* NORWAY Second record of black-headed race *feldegg*: male at Nordre Øyeren, Rælingen, Akershus, on 25th May 1990.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* ESTONIA First record: first-year male ringed near Häädemeeste, Pärnu District, on 21st August 1990; found nesting with female Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* near ringing-site during 16th May to 17th June 1991, six young apparently fledging successfully. FINLAND First breeding record: pair with four to five young in Pori during summer 1991 (plates 189 & 191) (male paired with female Yellow Wagtail nested for five successive years 1983-87, *Brit. Birds* 77: 589; 78: 643; 80: 13; 81: 20). FRANCE Fifth record: juvenile at Ouessant, Finistère, on 14th October 1991* (fourth was in May 1991, *Brit. Birds* 85: 11). GERMANY Vagrants: West Berlin on 2nd May 1984 and Niedersachsen on 19th May 1985 (*Limicola* 3: 187), predating the 1986 record already noted (*Brit. Birds* 80: 327); Bayern on 26th April 1986, and Nordrhein-Westfalen on 22nd-23rd April 1988 (*Limicola* 4: 202; 5: 210). ICELAND Second and third records: 29th October 1982 (*Bliki* 3: 30) and Hvalsnes á miðnesi, Gull., on 20th October 1990*. LATVIA Sixth and seventh records: female near Pape on 22nd May 1990 and male near Lake Lubaña in June 1990 (first to fifth were in 1982-89, *Brit. Birds* 77: 589; 79: 289; 83: 227). SPAIN Third and fourth records: first-years ringed on 5th and 7th September 1991* (first and second were in April 1987 and September 1990, *Brit. Birds* 81: 335).

191. Juvenile Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, Finland, 22nd June 1991 (*Tapeni Lilja*)(see also plate 189)



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* FAROE ISLANDS Second record and first this century: male at Mykines bygd on 5th July 1991.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* NORWAY First record of race *subpersonata*: Herdla, Askoy, Hordaland, on 1st May 1990 (*BWP* states that movements of this subspecies are largely altitudinal, but the record is documented by a colour photograph).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* ICELAND Influx: about 40 in late October to November 1981, the first influx since 1975 (*Bliki* 1: 41-42).

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella* SWEDEN Seventh record: Landsort, Södermanland, on 13th October 1991 (first to sixth records were one in 1976, four in 1987 and one in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 71: 256; 82: 349).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* ICELAND Fifth record: 5th October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 51).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* CYPRUS Third record: Bishop's Pool on 27th October 1991* (first and second were in November 1957 and November 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 233). FINLAND Second breeding record: adult male, female and six young in Kuusamo at Valtavaara on 19th June 1990 (first breeding was in 1972); at least four second-year males singing at Valtavaara. SWEDEN Tenth record: adult male at Furilden, Gotland, on 28th July 1990*.

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* EGYPT Second and third records: males at Wadi El Natroun on 29th April 1985 and at El Arish

on 3rd May 1990 (first was collected 8 km north of Abu Zenima, South Sinai, on 30th May 1984, *Bull. BOC* 105: 84-85). NETHERLANDS First record, details published *Brit. Birds* 81: 20, see plate 185.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* DENMARK Vagrant records of race *maura*: 27th April 1988, 13th October 1988, 15th October 1988 and 23rd October 1988. GERMANY Vagrant of race *maura*: Heligoland on 21st-22nd November 1987 (*Limicola* 4: 202). ITALY First record of race *maura*: ringed in Natural Reserve of Palo Laziale on 1st October 1988. NETHERLANDS Thirteenth and fourteenth records of race *maura*: Zuidholland on 17th November 1986 and 13th November 1989, the first in November (*Dutch Birding* 13: 51). NORWAY Second to fifth records of race *maura*: 9th-11th October 1981, 22nd September 1985, 5th and 7th July 1988, and 17th October 1988. SWEDEN Vagrants of race *maura*: eight in 1988, four in 1989 and eight in 1990, with one in April, three in May, one in July, three in August and 12 in September-October, taking grand total to 67 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 458; 49: 475; 50(8): 24).

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* DENMARK Second record: first-year male at Christiansø, Bornholm, on 28th-31st October 1991* (first was in June 1991, *Brit. Birds* 85: 11). ITALY Seventh and eighth records: Giannutri Isle, Tuscany, on 27th May 1988, and on Capraia Isle, Tuscany, on 31st October 1989. SWEDEN First, second and eighth records: Fläcksjön on 5th-7th October 1975, Segerstads on 24th October 1982 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 475; 50(8): 25) and Faludden, Gotland, on 12th October 1991* (five records in 1987-88, *Brit. Birds* 82: 349, become third to seventh).

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* BELGIUM First record: Bastogne, Province of Luxembourg, on 23rd July 1991* (plate 192).

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* HUNGARY First record: first-winter or adult winter female near Balmúzajváros on 18th-21st November 1991. SWEDEN Fourteenth to seventeenth records: 23rd November 1986, 8th-11th October 1988, 20th-21st May 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 458; 49: 475) and Östergarn, Gotland, on 22nd September 1991*.

Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthoprymna* ISRAEL Tenth record: Eilat during November 1989 to February 1990. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* GERMANY Vagrant: Bayern on 9th-13th May 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 188).

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* FINLAND First record: adult female at Valassaaret from 24th October to 3rd November 1991* (plate 190). GERMANY Vagrants: Heligoland on 10th December 1983 and Niedersachsen on 12th May 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 188; 5: 211).

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* GERMANY Vagrant: immature male on Heligoland on 11th October 1988 (*Limicola* 4: 203). ICELAND Vagrants: 9th October 1982 and 5th-9th November 1982 (*Bliki* 3: 33). NETHERLANDS Fourteenth record: Gelderland on 17th March 1988 (*Dutch Birding* 11: 157). NORWAY Sixth record: juvenile at Jomfruland, Kragerø, Telemark, on 28th October 1988. POLAND Seventh record: Dorotowo, near Olsztyn, on 8th February 1989.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* ICELAND Vagrant: 30th October 1983 (*Bliki* 4: 28).

Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus* GERMANY Escape/vagrant: Heligoland on 16th July 1986, but considered to be escape (*Limicola* 5: 218).

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* CYPRUS First record: up to two on Mount Olympus on 16th December 1991*. SWEDEN First record: male at Holmsund on 28th December 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 475).

192. Male Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*, Belgium, July 1991 (*Luc Verroken*)



Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni* GERMANY Vagrants: male of nominate race in Nordrhein-Westfalen on 27th March to 5th April 1979 (*Limicola* 3: 188) and one on Heligoland, Schleswig-Holstein, on 22nd-23rd April 1987.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* DENMARK Fourth record: first-year male of race *atrogularis* at Frederiksvaerk, Zealand, on 11th-16th December 1991* (plate 187). FINLAND Sixteenth record of race *atrogularis*: male in Helsinki on 1st and 3rd January 1991 (thirteenth to fifteenth records were all in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 83: 15). GERMANY Vagrant: February 1992 (plate 188).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* EGYPT First record: at sewage-pools of Sidi Abd El Rahman Hotel on 30th September 1990 (two previous reports not fully accepted).

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* NETHERLANDS First record: trapped at Castricum, Noordholland, on 5th October 1991*.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* FINLAND Twelfth record: Lågskär Bird Observatory, Åland archipelago, on 27th-29th September 1989 (third autumn record; eleventh was in October 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 350).

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* GERMANY Vagrants: Hessen on 5th August 1972 and 7th September 1986 (*Limicola* 3: 189). Spring and breeding records: Bayern on 6th-7th May 1982 and one or two adults with two or three fledged young during 26th June to 13th July 1984 (*Limicola* 5: 211; cf. probable pair in Bayern from May to July 1981, *Brit. Birds* 75: 271).

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* EGYPT First record: Tenth of Ramadan sewage-pools on 3rd March 1988.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* FRANCE First to third records: Upeix, Hautes-Alpes, on 26th September 1990, adult at Trunvel/Finistère on 2nd July 1991*, and at La Colancelle, Nièvre, on 10th July 1991*. ISRAEL Third record: trapped at Eilat on 20th November 1991. NETHERLANDS Vagrants: immatures in Flevoland and Zuidholland, both on 8th September 1987 (*Dutch Birding* 10: 173). SWEDEN Eight to twelfth records: Eggegrund on 26th May 1988, Bjärred on 9th September 1989, Falsterbo on 5th August 1990, Skärstad on 29th September 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 459; 49: 475; 50(8): 26), and Segerstad, Öland, on 19th October 1991* (seventh was in October 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 337).

Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* EGYPT First record: St Katherine in November 1991. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* EGYPT First record: specimen found amongst hundreds of Willow Warblers *Phylloscopus trochilus* offered for sale at Rosetta birdmarket on 23rd September 1991. SWEDEN Fourth or fifth record: Dalsbyn, Dalarna, on 23rd August 1991* (previous record was in June 1991, *Brit. Birds* 85: 12).

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida* EGYPT Second record: three at Sharm El Sheikh on 24th August 1991 (first was in May 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 10).

Ménétries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea* EGYPT First autumn record: Wadi Digla, 40 km southeast of Cairo, on 23rd October 1990. ISRAEL First winter record: Eilat on 23rd January 1990. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* FINLAND Second record: male at Rönnskär Bird Observatory in Kirkkonummi on 13th May 1991 (first was in May 1986, *Brit. Birds* 81: 21). ICELAND First record: male on 22nd October 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 56). NETHERLANDS Third record: male trapped on Rottumeroog, Groningen, on 20th April 1991 (second was in May 1983, *Brit. Birds* 76: 569).

Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* SWEDEN Tenth record: Bröttorpsören, Öland, on 16th-24th October 1991* (ninth was in October 1988, *Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 459).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* NORWAY Sixth breeding record: pair raised three young in Telemark county during summer 1990.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* SWEDEN Increase: at least six singing males* in northern Sweden (unusually high number), and one ringed on Stora Fjäderägg, Västerbotten, on 31st August 1991* (rarely recorded on migration).

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* BELGIUM Twelfth record: one trapped at Meetkerke, West-Vlaanderem, on 27th October 1990*. DENMARK Vagrants: four at Christianso, Bornholm, during autumn 1990*. FRANCE Vagrants: Ouessant, Finistère, on 17th October 1988*, 24th October 1990 (*Alauda* 59: 242) and 27th October 1991*, and in Hérault on 2nd December 1990 (*Alauda* 59: 242). GERMANY Vagrants: two in October 1980 (including one already noted, *Brit. Birds* 75: 29), one in October 1985, two in October-November 1987, one in

Nordrhein-Westfalen on 24th May 1988, one in October 1988, and seven in October 1989 (*Limicola* 3: 191; 4: 204; 5: 213). ISRAEL First record: 24th-25th November 1991. NETHERLANDS Vagrants: four in 1987, all on 24th October, five in 1988, one on 24th-28th April and four in October, and the best-ever year in 1989, with at least nine in October-November, these bringing the Dutch total to 41 (*Dutch Birding* 10: 173; 11: 159; 13: 53).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* FINLAND Second record of race *humei*: ringed at Lågskär Bird Observatory on 7th October 1982. FRANCE Vagrants: 27 in September-October 1990, all but three in Finistère, compared with previous peaks of 28 in 1985, 30 in 1986 and 24 in 1987 (*Alauda* 59: 243). GERMANY Vagrants: one in October 1978, six in October 1986, two in September-October 1987, one in April 1988 (already noted, *Brit. Birds* 82: 352), one in Bayern on 1st May 1988, at least 36 in September-October 1988 (but probably over 50 on Heligoland alone), one in April 1989 (already noted, *Brit. Birds* 83: 16) and 12 in September-October 1989 (*Limicola* 3: 191; 4: 204; 5: 213). ICELAND Vagrants: 4th October 1982, and five in September-November 1984 (*Bliki* 3: 38; 5: 41); three in 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 57). LATVIA Small numbers: only two trapped at Pape in autumn 1991. MOROCCO First record of nominate race: between Oulma and Immouzer Ida-Ou-Tanane on 13th November 1988*. NETHERLANDS Fifth to eighth records of race *humei*: De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noordholland, on 6th-7th November 1990, Wassenaar, Zuidholland, from 11th December 1990 to 4th January 1991, Rijnsburg, Zuidholland, on 12th-13th December 1990, and De Blocq van Kuffeler, Flevoland, from 24th December 1990 to 26th January 1991. SLOVENIA First record: female trapped at Vrhnika on 2nd October 1991. SWEDEN Third record of race *humei*: Faludden on 29th October 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 476), the Ottenby record on 4th-6th November 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 229; *Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 27) becoming the fourth.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* BELGIUM Fourth record: 18th October 1990* (not 1991 as given in *Brit. Birds* 85: 13). FRANCE Third record: Ouessant, Finistère, on 18th October 1991* (second was in 1990, *Brit. Birds* 85: 13). NETHERLANDS Fifth, sixth and seventh records: Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, on 6th-8th November 1990, Terschelling, Friesland, on 10th October 1991, and at Meijendel, Zuidholland, on 12th October 1991 (third and fourth were in 1981, *Brit. Birds* 75: 271). SWEDEN Vagrants: Grötlingboudd on 8th-9th October 1989, Faludden on 10th October 1989, ringed at Stora Fjäderägg on 24th September 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 50(8): 27), another (unringed) there on 28th September 1990*, Eggegrund on 6th October 1990, two at Utklippan, Blekinge, on 5th October 1991* and one at Landsort, Södermanland, on 6th-13th October 1991* (thirteenth and fourteenth were in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 352; with the late acceptance of one on 22nd October 1982, *Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 459, the grand total reaches 23).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* DENMARK Influx: eight at Christiansø, Bornholm*, and one at Blåvand, W-Jutland, on 21st October 1991*, and one at Gilleleje, Zealand, on 11th-15th October 1991* (13 previous records, including 12 in 1987, *Brit. Birds* 83: 229; these ten bring total to 23). NETHERLANDS Tenth record: Zuidholland on 20th October 1988 (*Dutch Birding* 11: 159). POLAND Eighth record: Mikoszewo at mouth of Vistula on 25th September 1989 (sixth and seventh were both in 1988, *Brit. Birds* 82: 353). SWEDEN Twentieth to twenty-fifth records: Utklippan on 3rd October 1988, Eggegrund on 1st October 1989, Faludden on 6th October 1989, Sandby on 5th November 1989 and Svenska Högarna on 7th October 1990 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 48: 459; 49: 476; 50(8): 27), and Västergarn, Gotland, on 14th-15th October 1991*.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* GREECE First breeding record: pair in Evros district, Thrace (cf. range expansion into Slovenia, *Brit. Birds* 80: 328).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* SWEDEN Highest-ever numbers: about 37 records in 1989 and about 35 records in 1990. First breeding record: at least seven young fledged from nest at Järavallen, Scania, in 1990.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* NORWAY First and second breeding records: pair with fledglings at Røgen, Grue, Hedmark, on 26th July 1982, and female with fledgling near Moss, Østfold, on 10th June 1989.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* MOROCCO Second record: two males at Merzouga Oasis on 13th April 1991 (first concerned 11 trapped near Figuig during 29th March to 10th April 1965, *Ibis* 110: 462).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* MOROCCO Third record: Oued Massa Estuary on 18th-21st January 1991 (second was in April 1987, *Brit. Birds* 81: 21). SWEDEN High numbers: 'After several good years, numbers are the highest ever and Bearded Tits are now almost

ubiquitous in reedbeds in southern Sweden' (cf. high numbers in Denmark, colonisation of Finland and influx into Norway during 1988-91, *Brit. Birds* 82: 353; 85: 13). UKRAINE Increase: 35-40 pairs in western Ukraine in 1991.

Azure Tit *Parus cyanus* SWEDEN Hybrid Azure × Blue Tit *P. caeruleus:* Landsort on 16th October 1991* (Azure Tits recorded once in eighteenth century and in 1985, *Brit. Birds* 79: 291).

Great Tit *Parus major* ICELAND Fourth record: 11th March to 19th April 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 58).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* LATVIA Second to fourth records of race *asiatica*: three trapped at Pape in autumn 1990* (cf. invasions into Finland in 1962, 1976 and 1983, *Brit. Birds* 70: 218, 495; 77: 242).

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* NETHERLANDS Continuing increase: 110 nests outside Flevoland, where about 20 near Lelystad alone and unknown number in vast marshlands, in 1991 (cf. *Brit. Birds* 84: 234). NORWAY Third record: female at Fornabu, Bærum, Akershus, on 16th-20th April 1990 (first and second were both in 1989, *Brit. Birds* 85: 13).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* CYPRUS Second record: Ayia Napa Forest on 25th August 1991* (first was in April 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 229). NORWAY First record of Iberian race *meridionalis*: Orrevannet, Klepp, Rogaland, on 5th October 1984.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* EGYPT First record: one reported between Abu Rawash and Cairo-Alexandria desert road on lst May 1984.

Raven *Corvus corax* NETHERLANDS Reintroduction success: three breeding pairs in Veluwe, Gelderland, in 1976, nine in 1979, four in 1983, 46 in 1990 and 64 in 1991 (reintroduced at the site during 1969-86).

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus* EGYPT First record for eight years: Sharm El Sheikh, South Sinai, on 23rd August 1991. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* ICELAND Influx: five individuals during 27th June to 26th July 1983 (cf. only five previous records; *Bliki* 4: 36).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* EGYPT Third record: male at Gebel Asfar on 15th May 1987 (two previous records were at Suez on 29th April 1982 and at Safaga on 12th-13th March 1985, Goodman & Meininger 1989, *The Birds of Egypt*).

Pale Rock Sparrow *Petronia brachydactyla* EGYPT Fifth record: just south of Baghdad, North Sinai, on 12th October 1990. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* LATVIA Highest-ever numbers: 51 at Pape on 7th-18th November 1991*. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* ICELAND Influx: more than 700 from beginning of June 1990, some staying well into 1991 (much greater than 1985 influx; cf. eruption from Sweden and irruption noted in Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Faroe Islands, France, Gibraltar, Hungary, Malta, and the Netherlands, *Brit. Birds* 85: 15).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* NETHERLANDS Continuing increase: more than 20 breeding pairs in 1991, including about 11 pairs on islands of the Waddensea and about eight in Flevoland (cf. first breeding in 1987 and 15 pairs in 1989, *Brit. Birds* 84: 11).

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* FRANCE First record: male at Rocquencourt, Yvelines, on 8th February 1992* (cf. Shetland report in March-April 1992, *Brit. Birds* 85: 262).

Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata* NORWAY First and second records: adults at Ilseng, Løten, Hedmark, in June 1989, and at Borrevannet, Borre, Vestfold, on 8th April 1990 (added to Norwegian 'B list' because of escape possibility). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* EGYPT First record for about ten years: El Arish on 13th January 1990 (cf. first and second records for Jordan in November-December 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 229).

Northern Parula *Parula americana* ICELAND Sixth and seventh records: 27th September 1989 and 29th September 1989 (*Bliki* 11: 59).

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens* ICELAND First West Palearctic record: male on Heimaey, Vestm., on 14th-19th September 1988 (*Bliki* 8: 59; one also occurred in Greenland on 21st October 1988, *Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidsskr.* 85: 31). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* ICELAND First record: found freshly dead

on board ship in Reykjavík harbour on 19th September 1984 (*Bliki* 4: 57-67; 5: 44, 46). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* ICELAND Fifth to seventh records: 26th September 1980 (two), and 1st October 1989 (*Bliki* 1: 36; 11: 59). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* ICELAND Vagrants: 21st-29th November 1981 and 13th-14th April 1982 (*Bliki* 1: 36; 3: 39). Sixth record: Höfn í Hornafirði, Askaft., on 18th-20th January 1990*.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* NETHERLANDS Twentieth record: immature male in Zuidholland on 29th October 1988; first record was in May 1873, since when there have been 14 in October and five in November (*Dutch Birding* 13: 55). SPAIN Second record: male at Columbretes Island, off Castellón de la Plana, on 14th November 1989*. SWEDEN Seventh record: male at Lulavan, Norrbotten, on 1st April 1990 (sixth was in March 1989, *Brit. Birds* 83: 16).

Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea* EGYPT Fifth record: male of race *semenowi* at Sharm El Sheikh, South Sinai, on 7th April 1990. (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* NETHERLANDS Continuing decrease: about 24 breeding pairs in 1991, including 19 in northern Limburg (cf. 33 pairs in 1989 and decreases in Austria and Norway, *Brit. Birds* 84: 11).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* FRANCE Eleventh record this century: Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, on 26th October 1991*. PORTUGAL First record: juvenile male at Alvor Estuary on 12th November 1990.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* EGYPT Fourth record: two at Sharm El Sheikh on 17th October 1991.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* DENMARK Third record: first-year at Christiansø, Bornholm, on 30th August 1991* (first and second were in 1984 and 1990, *Brit. Birds* 84: 11). EGYPT Second record: female/juvenile at Sharm El Sheikh on 17th October 1991 (first was on 3rd September 1972, Goodman & Meininger 1989, *The Birds of Egypt*).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* ICELAND Third record: male on Heimaey, Vestm., from about 15th-20th September 1990*.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* SWEDEN First record: Mällby on 28th April to 1st May 1989 (*Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 478). (This species has not previously been mentioned in a 'European news' summary.)

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* ICELAND First record: adult male on 23rd-24th April 1980 (*Bliki* 4: 57-67).

Correspondents

AUSTRIA Hans-Martin Berg, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Vogelkunde, c/o Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, A-1014 Wien 1, Burgring 7, Postfach 417

BELARUS M. E. Nikiforov, Lab. Ecol. Terrestrial Animals, Inst. Zoology, Byel. Acad. Sci., Skoriny St 27, 220733 Minsk

CANARY ISLANDS Juan Antonio Lorenzo Gutiérrez, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidad de la Laguna, 38206 La Laguna

CYPRUS C. J. L. Bennett, PO Box 4319, Nicosia

CZECHOSLOVAKIA Professor Karel Šťastný, Faculty of Forestry, Agricultural University in Prague, 281 63 Kostelec n.Č.lesy

DENMARK Brian Rasmussen, Kastanie Alle 27, DK-3250 Gilleleje

EGYPT Sherif & Mindy Baha El Din, Executive Business Service, Cairo Marriott Hotel, PO Box 33, Zamalek, Cairo

ESTONIA Dr Vilju Lilleleht, Institute of Zoology and Botany, 21 Vanemuise St, EE-2400 Tartu

FAROE ISLANDS Søren Sørensen, Bratskovvej 5, DK-2720 Vanløse, Denmark

FINLAND Hannu Jännes, The Finnish Ornithological Society, Zoological Museum, P. Rautatiekatu 13, SF-00100 Helsinki 10

FRANCE Dr Philippe J. Dubois, 2 rue Mozart, 92000 Nanterre

GIBRALTAR Charles E. Perez, 7 Kensington House, Laguna Estate

GREECE George I. Handrinos, 50 El Venizelou Str, 166 75 Glyfada

HUNGARY Zoltán Waliczky, H-1039 Budapest, Juhász Gy.u.15.

ICELAND Gunnlaugur Pétursson, Gautlandi 21, 108 Reykjavík

ISRAEL Hadoram Shirihai, Israel Trust for Ornithology, PO Box 4168, Eilat 88102
ITALY Marco Gustin, SROPU, via Palo Laziale 2, c/o Bosco WWF di Palo Laziale, Ladispoli, Rome
JORDAN Ian J. Andrews, c/o British Embassy, PO Box 87, Amman
LATVIA Dr Jānis Baumanis, Laboratory of Ornithology, Miera 3, 229021 Salaspils
LITHUANIA Dr Petras Kurlavičius, Institute of Ecology, Academijos 2, MTP, Vilnius
MALTA Joe Sultana & Charles Gauci, The Ornithological Society, PO Box 498, Valletta
MOLDOVA Dr I. M. Ganea, Institute of Zoology, str. Academiei 1, Chişinau, Republica Moldova 277028
MOROCCO Michel Thévenot, Laboratoire de Biogéographie et Écologie, Case 94, Université de Montpellier 2, F-34095 Montpellier Cedex 5, France
NETHERLANDS Drs. Arnoud B. van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
NORWAY Andrew W. Clarke, Grønlia, Kyrresvingen 21, 3186 Horten
POLAND Dr Tadeusz Stawarczyk, Wrocław University, Museum of Natural History, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław
PORTUGAL Dr João Carlos Farinha, Serviço Nacional de Parques, Reservas e Conservação da Natureza, Rua Filipe Folque 46, 3°, 1000 Lisboa
SLOVENIA Iztok Geister, 64202 Naklo, Pokopaliska pot 13
SPAIN Dr Eduardo de Juana A., Sociedad Española de Ornitologia, Facultad de Biologia, Pl. 9, 28040 Madrid
SWEDEN Tommy Tyrberg, Kimstadsv. 37, S-610 20 Kimstad
TUNISIA Thierry Gaultier, Les Alouettes, rue Cuvier, Champfleuri, 38300 Bourgoin-Jallieu, France
UKRAINE Igor Gorbań, Grushewski St 4, Lviv, 290005-SU

No information was received from Albania, Andorra, Bulgaria, Luxembourg or Romania.

Notes



'Water-boiling' display by Whooper and Bewick's Swans From the mid 1980s, at Welney, Norfolk, we have noticed a regularly occurring display by Whooper *Cygnus cygnus* and Bewick's Swans *C. columbianus* feeding in high densities on waste potatoes tipped out for them. Usually, but not always, it follows an aggressive encounter with a conspecific, and entails the swan lifting itself clear of the water and paddling vigorously (fig. 1), producing a loud churning noise and creating a pool of 'boiling' water; the wings are not opened during this activity. The intensity of this 'water-boiling' varies greatly: from a simple light paddling, barely lifting the swan clear of the water, to an impressive violent two-second or three-second burst of paddling with body well clear of the water, leaving a disturbed pool that may take ten seconds to subside. In a mild form,



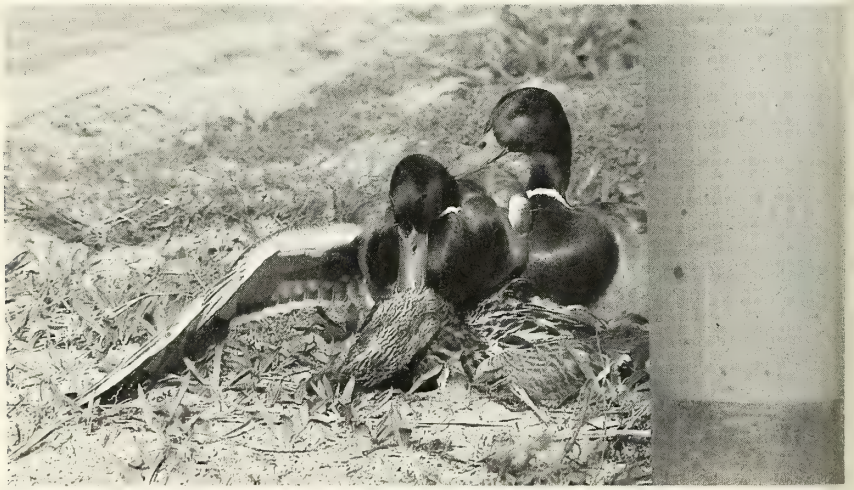
Fig. 1. 'Water-boiling' display by Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (*J. B. Kemp*)

this aggressive display sometimes occurs as part of the more usual aggressive wing-flapping encounters between swans. The display is most impressive and loudest when given by Whooper Swan.

J. B. Kemp and J. Revett
The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Welney, Norfolk

Drake Mallards attempting to mate with dead female In March 1985, in the Netherlands, I came across a male and a female Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, the female of which appeared to have just met with an accident, either by having been hit by a passing car or through having flown into the concrete pillar in the right-hand side of the photograph (plate 193). Her assumed mate seemed not to know how to react to the dead body: several times he lifted her head in his beak, then let it fall again; he moved away a metre or so, returned, performed various displacement activities (pecking at the ground and half-heartedly preening himself), and then stood beside the corpse. At this point, a second drake flew down and attempted immediately to copulate with the dead female. The first male then tried the same, and it quickly became impossible to distinguish between mating and fighting. Eventually, the intruder flew off and the original drake continued trying to stimulate the dead female, before finally giving up and starting to preen himself again.

Mike Weston
J. van Oldenbarneveltlaan 15B, 2582 NP 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands



193. Two male Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* disputing opportunity to attempt to mate with dead female Mallard, Netherlands, March 1985 (*Mike Weston*)

Derek Goodwin has commented as follows: 'I have seen very similar behaviour from a cock Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* towards an obviously recently dead and apparently uninjured corpse of presumably (but not certainly) his mate. If we assume (as I believe to be the case) that (a) Mallards, like some (but not all) species, appear to have no innate "realisation" of death, that (b) there is a strong bond within mated pairs, that (c) drakes try to rape ducks other than their own mates, that (d) the latter try to prevent their mates being raped, but, if they are (in their presence), "follow up" the rape, and that (e) a female lying flat, with back upwards, stimulates copulation attempts (though Mallard drakes do not need this stimulus to attempt rape), then all the behaviour shown is what one would expect.' Eds

Escape reaction of Knot from Peregrine On 11th February 1988, at Meols, the Wirral, Merseyside, I saw an interesting interaction between a female Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and a Knot *Calidris canutus*. The falcon struck the Knot in mid air, but did not hold on to it. Two short aerial chases then ensued, with the Knot dodging the Peregrine only at the last second. Free from the Peregrine for a few seconds, the Knot landed on the sea, half way along and directly against the hull of a moored boat. On her return, the Peregrine hovered over the boat, but was not able to take the Knot, and, after around two minutes, she flew off.

After about a further two minutes, the Knot had been washed out from the stern of the boat by wave action, where it would have been easy prey. Instead, it flew to the shore and preened frenetically. P. I. MORRIS

Caughall Farmhouse Cottage, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester, Cheshire CH2 4BW

Cloaca-pecking by Great Tit At about 16.00 GMT on 31st March 1986, at West Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset, I saw a male Great Tit *Parus major* pecking at the cloaca of a female Great Tit on a branch. The female, closely followed by the male, then fluttered about 0.5 m along the branch, stopped and raised her tail slightly, when repeated cloaca-pecking was resumed. The duration of the pecking behaviour was about 45 seconds; both tits then flew off. Before the incident, a singing Great Tit, presumably the same male, had been heard nearby. Probably the activity was of sexual origin, although, during the pecking, there was no wing-fluttering by the female and no raising of the crown feathers by the male. No calls were uttered by either tit during the cloaca-pecking behaviour. I can find no reference to cloaca-pecking by Great Tits, either during aggressive encounters or in sexual displays. A. P. RADFORD

Crossways Cottage, West Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3EG

Dr C. M. Perrins has informed us that he has never seen this behaviour by Great Tits, although it is regular among Dunnocks *Prunella modularis* (see e.g. *Brit. Birds* 80: 604-624). So far as we are aware, cloaca-pecking has not been recorded for any tit species; similar observations are therefore welcomed. EDS

Seventy-five years ago...

'SWALLOW NESTING IN A DUG-OUT IN FRANCE. My son, 2nd-Lieut. Eliot Wallis, writes to me that, seeing a Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica*) come out of a deserted German dug-out in north-east France, he looked and found a nest "with four spotted eggs" about six feet six inches from the floor of the dug-out, and about on ground level, for it was approached by several steps down. As every chimney, house and shed had been levelled by the retreating enemy the birds had evidently returned to the usage of an earlier day, for few of us have seen a Swallow's nest in a cave. H. M. WALLIS' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 67, August 1917).

Letter

Little Grebe apparently imprinted on female Mallard With reference to the note on a juvenile Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* apparently imprinted on a female Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (*Brit. Birds* 82: 116), might it not be that the Mallard hatched the grebe egg, hence her apparently swimming 'aimlessly' (i.e. only to human eyes) and her avoiding flight? Her behaviour appears to be pretty consistent with that of a mother tending her hatchling.

ANGELA ROGERS
Heathfield House, Peel, Isle of Man

Dr K. E. L. Simmons has commented: 'The whole thing is a puzzle. Young grebes need feeding as well as sheltering *aboard* the adult or on the brood-nest; a female Mallard would provide none of this, which suggests that the association – grebe attaching itself to duck – came later rather than sooner.' EDS

Announcements

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Brucker, Gosler & Heryet *The Birds of Oxfordshire*
*Trodd & Kramer *The Birds of Bedfordshire*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages vii & viii.

Come to the Fair! The British Birdwatching Fair is at Rutland Water from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September. The *BB* stand is no. M1/28 (no. 28 in marquee no. 1). Come and say 'Hello!'

News and comment

Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

French disgrace On behalf of the RSPB, ME took part in a protest in early May against the spring shooting of migrant Turtle Doves *Streptopelia turtur* in Médoc, France. The protest was led by the Ligue Française pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO) and was the 1992 version of what has become, sadly, an annual event – 'sadly' because spring shooting is illegal under both French and EC law and the authorities seem powerless to stop it. Perhaps that is being far too charitable: what they really seem to lack is the political will to take on the powerful hunting lobby and enforce the law, even though claims that they were going to do so have repeatedly come from the highest levels. A four-hour meeting with the hunters achieved nothing: their intransigence and sheer bloody-mindedness beggars belief. They appear totally unconcerned about shooting some 30,000 Turtle Doves each spring (plus many other 'protected' migrants passing at the same time) and unable (or unwilling) to accept the fact that spring shooting in any shape or form is outlawed by sportsmen virtually everywhere else in Europe. The whole affair was made worse by the ever-present threat of mob violence. The local representatives of the state no doubt felt they had done a good job in preventing any action beyond the throwing of rotten eggs and paint-bombs. Indeed, the

rank-and-file members of the Gendarmerie handled things very well. Their masters, however, stand condemned: they halted the protest halfway through Médoc because they were unable to guarantee the physical safety of the protesters. As one local newspaper remarked afterwards, it seems as if the laws in Médoc are made by the hunters, not the State.

The protests will continue and various actions are being planned to put pressure on the French government to sort things out once and for all. Meanwhile, LPO needs all the support it can get. Any *BB* reader who is willing to help by writing a letter of protest to the French environment minister should write to us at the usual 'N&c' address for further information.

Estuaries and coastal planning In late April, the RSPB revealed the results of its latest survey of our threatened estuaries. The picture looks increasingly bleak. Four years ago, it listed 43 estuaries as facing irreversible damage; the figure has now risen to 57. The main threats come from marina developments, land claim, port expansion and pollution. Other major problems include recreational pressures, bait-digging and cockle-fishing. At almost the same time, the House of Commons Environment Committee on Coastal Zone Protection and Planning published a report which makes nonsense of recent Government claims that existing arrangements for coastal protection are working 'extremely well'. The Committee was quite clear in its view that present-day coastal management and planning structures are wholly inadequate and uncoordinated. Isn't it time that Government stopped making fine noises about coastal conservation and actually did something?

Fair Isle bus After years of coping with ancient or dilapidated vehicles to transport visitors and their luggage across the island, Fair Isle Bird Observatory now has a 'new' bus, all thanks to the Scottish Post Office. One of its former buses has been refurbished and repainted and in April was presented to the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust. No doubt, the sea, the weather and a busy workload will soon make it look a part of the place.

New members for BOURC Two very familiar *BB* names—B. A. E. Marr and R. F. Porter—were appointed to fill the vacancies on the BOU Records Committee created by the retirement of Peter Colston and Brian Little. Tony Marr is a member of the Rarities Committee's Seabirds Advisory Panel, having been interested in seawatching ever since his Selsey Bill days in the 1950s/1960s. Richard Porter was also a Selsey Bill regular in those days, but subsequently has become especially known for his work on raptors, in Turkey and elsewhere, his co-authorship of the classic *Flight Identification of European Raptors* (based on papers published in *British Birds*) and his work for the RSPB, where he is head of Species Protection. Richard has been featured in our series 'Personalities' (*Brit. Birds* 70: 113-115).

'Windrush' windfall Bob Glover—whose bathing Redshank *Tringa totanus* photographed in Essex (plate 119) won this year's title of Bird Photograph of the Year—had a very pleasant surprise at the Press Reception in London when he discovered that he had also won the newly-instituted 'Windrush Photos Prize'. This cash prize (currently £100) will be presented annually by David Tomlinson, who runs 'Windrush Photos', to the photographer with the highest-placed photograph taken in the United Kingdom. David has commented that he wants to encourage bird-photographers to submit their British-taken transparencies, since he appreciates that it is often easier to obtain photographs abroad (he is also, of course, proprietor of the bird-tour company, 'Gourmet Birds').

Richard Richardson remembered The 1991 *Norfolk Bird Report* will not only feature examples of the late Richard Richardson's own artwork, but will also include drawings by every one of the 13 winners of The Richard Richardson Award since its inauguration in 1979 (*Brit. Birds* 72: 46). The *Report* (due to be published on 1st August) will be a 'must' for all Richard Richardson art aficionados and will be available, price £4.00 including p&p (cheques payable to Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society), from Mrs Mary Dorling, 6 New Road, Hethersett, near Norwich NR9 3HH.

Beds Bird Club Formed by Bedfordshire birdwatchers, within the aegis of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society, the new Bedfordshire Bird Club aims to promote increased interest in the ornithology of the county. It will be publishing an annual Bedfordshire Bird Report and a bimonthly newsletter, *The Hobby*. The County Bird Recorder is Dave Ball, 254 Goldington Road, Bedford MK40 3EB, telephone Bedford (0234) 214617; and the Editor of *The Hobby* is Dave Odell, 74 The Links, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7LT. Membership of the BBC is £7.50 per annum (cheques payable to the Bedfordshire Natural History Society, please); the Membership Secretary is Mrs

Mary Sheridan, 28 Chestnut Hill, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 7TR.

Birders' 'Who's Who' John Pemberton, of *Birdwatcher's Yearbook* fame, tells us that he plans to launch a new publication: *Who's Who in Birdwatching and Ornithology*. At the moment, he is building up a comprehensive list of potential candidates for inclusion and invites us all to submit these to him (at Buckingham Press, 25 Manor Park, Maids Moreton, Buckingham MK18 1QX). There are no specific criteria at present—just whoever you feel should go in the book. Make no assumptions that this or that person will be included—submit his or her name. Your submissions can be made anonymously if you so choose. All persons listed and chosen for inclusion in the eventual tome will be contacted by John before his list is finalised and publication details are agreed.

Fancy a trip to Colonsay? Regular advertisers within the pages of *BB*, Kevin & Christa Byrne, have offered free accommodation for two or three days to the first *BB* subscriber (and partner) who applies to them in writing or by phone. Kevin & Christa are the proprietors of 'The Hotel', Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP; phone Colonsay (09512) 316. You had better hurry; having read the blurb, it's on the cards that you may find The Hotel already filled with 'News and comment' compilers and *BB* proof-readers (and their respective partners), for the island sounds idyllic.

Welsh Bird Report Costs £4 (not £3 as stated in May, 85: 261), from Mike Shrubb, Hillcrest, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys LD5 4TL.

A swinging time at Titchwell? Or, at least, it seems to have been, according to the *Eastern Daily Press* (9th May 1992), where it was noted that unusual birds at the RSPB reserve at Titchwell 'have included the pendulum tit'. Thanks are due to Michael Seago for sending us that one.

Change of address of County Recorder P. W. Ellicott, County Recorder for Devon, now lives at 10 Chapel Road, Alphington, Exeter, Devon EX2 8TB.

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 13th June to 17th July 1992

These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork), 15th July.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* 30, Cape Clear Island, 14th-15th July.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* Breydon Water (Norfolk), 14th June: near Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Tyne & Wear), 4th July; Stanford Reservoir (Northamptonshire/Leicestershire), 5th to at least 17th July; Brandon Morse Reservoir, near Coventry (West Midlands), 7th-12th July; Durleigh Reservoir (Somerset), 11th-14th July.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* Bath (Avon), 13th June.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Needs Oar Point, Lymington (Hampshire), 17th-27th June; Fair Isle (Shetland), 2nd July.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* Greenabella Marsh (Cleveland), 26th June; Cley (Norfolk), 1st-2nd July.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Douglas Estuary (Co. Cork), 19th June.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* Pair feeding young, Titchwell RSPB Reserve (Norfolk).

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* 15, Cape Clear Island, 14th-15th July.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Titchwell, 27th June.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* Belvide Reservoir (Staffordshire), 21st June; Messingham (Humberside), 23rd June.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* Blakeney Point (Norfolk), 8th and 11th July.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* Bridlington (Humberside), 15th July.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* Monkton (Kent), 15th June; Walney Island (Cumbria), 27th June.

Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* Fair Isle, 1st-2nd July.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 15th July.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111

(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature.

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be **PREPAID** and sent to British Birds Advertising Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(These prices do not include VAT)
£2.50 a line—average of 6 words
£8.50 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is £1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions less 10%
6 insertions less 15%
12 insertions less 20%

Copy Date
September issue
August 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm *and* HarperCollins — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Cley 5 miles. Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390

(BB963)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)
CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB097)
EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB213)
WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/ Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB169)
WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey, Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)
FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB171)
ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB208)
ISLES OF SCILLY. Self catering units for 2/5. Linen, towels, TV included. Well furnished & equipped. Guest House accommodation also available. All rooms en suite, colour TV, tea/coffee making facilities. Conveniently situated. D. Williams, The Bylet Guest House, St Mary's, Isle of Scilly. Tel: 0720 22479. (BB224)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB160)

SCOTLAND

SPEY VALLEY. Uninterrupted views of the Cairngorms. All rooms en-suite; tea and coffee making facilities: Db&b £130. Brochure from: Penny Bailey, The Lodge, Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84503. (BB184)
THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB183)
BOAT OF GARTEN, OLD FERRYMAN'S HOUSE, BB £13, DBB £21, PL £3, Bird register. Open fire in sitting room. Few minutes walk to RSPB reserve. Tel: 047983 370. (BB182)
SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland. The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB163)

WALES

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB832)

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest house standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB190)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB205)

WEST WALES smallholding. BB/EM or self cater in our cosy cottage for 2/4 or luxury 6 berth caravan. Ideal for Pembs Islands, National Park Tregaron, WTB approved. Tel: 0239 831265 (BB209)

OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA, CAIRNS, JULATTEN. At Kingfisher Park we provide accommodation and camping facilities in a rainforest sanctuary for native birds and animals. We are central to a variety of habitats and cater for the interests and enthusiasms of birdwatchers and naturalists. Write now for a free birdlist to Kingfisher Park, P.O. Box 3, Julatten, Queensland, Australia 4871. (BB221)

CAMARGUE—TOWN HOUSE. Sleeps 10. £150-£250 pw (0624) 676151. Fx 662787. (BB122)

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, I 3200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB229)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

THE GAMBIA: paradise for birdwatchers. Basic, clean accom. in prime forest/shore area, transport and packed meals, extended trips with Mass Cham, foremost Gambian ornithologist. Interested – please call Gee Cross Travel. 061-368 7005. Eve: 061-367 8335. (BB206)

WILDWINGS

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£185
CARIBBEAN	£345
C. & S. AMERICA	£399
AFRICA	£129
N. AMERICA	£180
ASIA	£280
AUS/NZ	£599

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2895 pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST, BRISTOL BS1 3AU MON -FRI
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757 ABTA 65077

(BB217)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237

100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS

'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'

EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES - WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

SPECIALIST ADVISER - ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)

ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB204)

ERYRI BIRDS



Come birdwatching with us in 1992

S. SPAIN SEPTEMBER
N. GREECE SEPTEMBER

Informal small group holidays with experienced guides

Send for a brochure to:
Colin Thomas,
24 Tan-y-Bwlch Rd, Llanllechid,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
Tel: (0248) 600167

(BB186)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1008 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May — variety of accommodation — trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB228)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA — Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours, 1 Simmons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator. (BB871)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRD INFORMATION

The Paging Service for Birders

RARE BIRD ALERT

Tel. 0800 246 246

NOW! Economical Numeric Pagers too

(BB207)

BIRDWATCHING ADVICE LINE

'PLANNING A BIRDWATCHING TRIP ABROAD'

Thomas Cook Travel

OFFER YOU A TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS LINE: 02572 62317

Ask for Keith Hiller experienced Birdwatcher.

Details available include: * Worldwide Airfares * Car Hire * Package Holidays * Ferries * Overseas Rail * Visas * Health * Accommodation * Cruises * Foreign Money * Individuals or groups catered for.

ABTA number 29600 (BB117)

To Advertise
Phone 0621 815085
or Fax 0621 819130

BIRD REPORT

OUTER HEBRIDES BIRD REPORT FOR 1991. Comprehensive Report plus rarities reports, Dave Davenport with a full description of Skua Passage off Balranald, Birdwatching on St Kilda, Gazeteer etc. Price £4.50 inc p&p from Tim Dix, 2 Drimsdale, S. Uist PA81 5RT. Cheques made out to OHBR. (BB187)

WILTSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990, £3.75 inc. p&p from N. Pleass, 22 Ferrers Drive, Swindon, Wilts SN5 6HJ. (BB194)

ORKNEY BIRD REPORT 1991 available from Vishabreck, Evie, Orkney. £2.85 inc p&p. (BB200)

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1991. £4 inc. p&p, available from Lincs Bird Club, 8 High Street, Skegness PE25 3NN. (BB227)

DEVON BIRD REPORT 1990. £4.00 inc. p&p. A.W.G. John, Brook Cottage, Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, Devon. (BB226)

CHRISTCHURCH HARBOUR 1991. £2.50 inclusive. Paul Morrison, 33 Minterne Road, Christchurch, Dorset. (BB225)

BIRDS IN CORNWALL 1991 now available. £5 (inc. postage) from Stanley Christophers, 'Bramblings', Rachels Way, St Columb Major, Cornwall TR9 6EP. (BB222)

BOOKS

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel: 0433 630137. (BB109)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3JP (Tel: 09315-282). (BB066)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB1517



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £6.45 inclusive p/p to:
Coxton Publications,
Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington,
Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP

(BB223)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request

Tel: 0352 770861
Fax: 0352 771590

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

SUBBUTEO
NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd, North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers
where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407
(BB192)

SEYCHELLES. A Birdwatchers' Guide to Seychelles by Skerrett & Bullock. £8.75. Prion Ltd (Perry). From bookshops or N.H.B.S. Tel: (0803) 865913. (BB201)
BIRD & NAT. HIST. BOOKS. Regular catalogues. SAE to Mrs A. Gipps, 1 Woodside Cottages, Westwell Lane, Ashford, Kent TN 26 1JB. (BB218)

SHROPSHIRE BREEDING ATLAS. Based upon fieldwork 1985-1991. Maps plus text and illustrations for 129 species. Chapters on habitats, populations, fieldwork. 204 pages. £9.95 + £1 p&p from Shropshire O.S., 6 St Annes Road, Collegefields, SHREWSBURY, SY3 6AU (BB196)

WANTED

DESPERATELY WANTED Birds Illustrated Vol 1 Number 1. Name your price to Ole Jensen, Oernevej 122, DK-5210 Odense NV, Denmark. (BB220)
WANTED: DEMENTEV-GLADKOV: Birds of the U.S.S.R.: Vols 1 and 2 (English edit.) Any condition — any price. Write: PO Box 20006, 11810 Athens, Greece. (BB219)

FOR SALE

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS
Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845
(BB164)

BIRD JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB144)
B.B. for sale 1960-1966 incl. Bound brown cloth. Offers. Phone 0442 253994. (BB202)
PODSTRAP — the 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. p&p from : Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details).
BIRDWATCHING IN LESBOS. Find out the sites to visit, the birds to see. Full description of sites with maps plus bird list. 45 pages. £4.50. Williams, 87 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1DE. (BB189)

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.
The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre
Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes.
Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6.
Repair service on the premises.
T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB145)

WALKERS
Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods – SLRs – compacts
*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * OPTOLYTH * ADLERBLICK**

OPTOLYTH AND OPTICRON NOW IN STOCK

SPECIAL AUGUST PRICES
KOWA – ZEISS – LEITZ
TSN1 or 2 & 30x **£400** Zeiss 7 x 42 **£589**
Leitz 7 x 42 **£599** Pentax 10 x 42 **£160**
Russian 7 x 35 **£27**, 10 x 50 **£30**, 20 x 60 **£59**

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST (D116)
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

ILLUSTRATION: RAY SMITH

Overhead cables underground

Theme park prevented

Quarry plan defeated

Green belt test case won against urban sprawl scheme



Straw and stubble burning banned

Broadleaf woodlands protected

Water conservation case, to remedy drying rivers, officially accepted

Legal hedgerow protection brought closer

New grants for environmentally sensitive farming

Proposed motorway diverted along less harmful route

Advertising hoardings stopped

Can you see what CPRE has achieved? The countryside protectors' monument is often what is *not* there. Please join us to protect the countryside.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE
CPRE

Reg.Charity No. 233179

YES, I would like to join CPRE. *I ENCLOSE*

☐ £12 (individual) ☐ £16 (joint) ☐ £350 (life) And/or ☐ £_____(donation)

I am paying the total of £_____ by ☐ Cheque/PO (payable to CPRE)

☐ Access/Visa No. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *Expiry date* __/__

Cardholder's signature

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

PLEASE POST TO COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)
FREEPOST, GOLDTHORPE, ROTHERHAM S63 9BR

(D169)

906

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 8 August 1992

415 **'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and 'The Richard Richardson Award'** *Robert Gillmor, Alan Harris, Keith Shackleton and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

424 **Mystery photographs** *180* Thekla Lark *Peter Lansdown*

426 **Great Knot: new to Britain and Ireland** *Peter M. Ellis*

431 **Long-toed Stint: new to Britain and Ireland** *John B. Dunnett*

437 **Identification pitfalls and assessment problems** *12* Surf Scoter *Alan Brown*

439 **Points of view** *19* Crashes *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

440 **Monthly marathon**

441 **ICBP news** *Georgina Green*

442 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

Review

442 'The Birds of Bedfordshire' by Paul Trodd & David Kramer *R. A. Hume*

443 **European news**

Notes

463 'Water-boiling' display by Whooper and Bewick's Swans *J. B. Kemp and J. Revett*
464 Drake Mallards attempting to mate with dead female *Mike Weston*
465 Escape reaction of Knot from Peregrine *P. I. Morris*
465 Cloaca-pecking by Great Tit *Dr A. P. Radford*

465 Seventy-five years ago . . .

Letter

466 Little Grebe apparently imprinted on female Mallard *Mrs Angela Rogers*

Announcements

466 Books in British BirdShop
466 Come to the Fair!

466 **News and comment** *Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch*

468 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 415 Richard Richardson (*Bryan Bland*); 426 Great Knot (*Alan Harris*); 431 Long-toed Stint (*Dave Nurney*)

Front cover: Wood Warbler (*John Gale*): the original drawing of this month's cover design is not for sale

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 9 September 1992

BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
10 SEP 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY



Nest-site selection by Golden Eagles
Winter 1991/92
Identification of Pallas's Warbler

Notes · Letter · Mystery photographs · News and comment
Monthly marathon · Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, R. A. Hume, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £45.80, IR£53.50 or $86.50. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £37.20, IR£43.60 or $70.00; personal airmail outside Europe £62.50, IR£72.95 or $118.00. Single back copies £4.75, IR£5.50 or $9.00.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984); names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford

**204 HIGH STREET,
BARNET, HERTS.
EN5 5SZ
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 081 449 1445
Phone 081 441 7748
Fax 081 440 9999**

HOW TO FIND US (Barnet)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

**MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK
PE31 8BB
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 0485 210101**

HOW TO FIND US (Norfolk)
We are 500 yards east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car parking

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR

RSPB — EGLETON NATURE RESERVE — LRTNC
RUTLAND WATER

Fri 4th, Sat 5th, Sun 6th September

FORTHCOMING FIELD EVENTS

We are pleased to offer our customers the best viewing facilities around the UK at RSPB, WWT and County Trusts' Reserves. Demonstrations are usually from hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10 am - 4 pm. For your convenience we advise appointments for the two days which can be arranged by contacting either shop.

**RSPB DUNGENESS
KENT**
Sat 29th & Sun 30th August

**CLEY VISITOR CENTRE
NORFOLK**
Sat 29th, Sun 30th & Mon 31st August
Tue 1st September
Tue 6th October

**WWT SLIMBRIDGE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**
From Sat 12th to Fri 25th September
Sat 10th & Sun 11th October

**FRAMPTON MARSH
BOSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE**
Sun 13th September

**FISHERS GREEN
LEA VALLEY
ESSEX**
Sun 13th September
Sun 11th October

**SWILLINGTON INGS
LEEDS, YORKSHIRE**
Sat 19th & Sun 20th September

**FINGRINGHOE
COLCHESTER
ESSEX**
Sun 20th September

**RSPB LODMOOR
WEYMOUTH
DORSET**
Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

**WWT LLANELLI
GLAMORGAN
STH WALES**
Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

**POTTERIC CARR
DONCASTER
YORKSHIRE**
Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October

**NORTHUMBRIAN
BIRDWATCHERS
FESTIVAL
DRURIDGE BAY**
Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October

**LACKFORD RESERVE
BURY ST. EDMONDS
SUFFOLK**
Sat 10th & Sun 11th October

**ADUR WATER
ACTIVITY CENTRE
SHOREHAM
WEST SUSSEX**
Sat 17th & Sun 18th October

IN FOCUS PLEDGES THAT IF ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED HERE ARE ADVERTISED ELSEWHERE AT A LOWER PRICE WE WILL NOT ONLY MATCH THAT PRICE WITHOUT HESITATION BUT ALSO INCLUDE FOR ALL OUR MAIL AND TELEPHONE ORDER CUSTOMERS AN IN FOCUS BLUE RIBAND CARE PLAN WORTH £15 FREE OF CHARGE.

BAUSCH & LOMB

	£
Elite 7x36BGAP	599.00
Elite 8x42BGAP	659.00
Elite 10x42BGAP	659.00
Custom 8x36B	229.00
Custom 10x40BGA	249.00
Legacy 8x24	89.00
Elite 22x60BGA	309.00
Elite 15x45x60BGAP	369.00
Elite 77 Body	365.00
Elite 77ED Body	775.00
20xWA	149.00
30x	135.00
20-60xZoom	198.00
Case	33.95
Photo Adapter	159.00

LEICA

	£
Trinovid 8x20BC	199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC	239.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA	239.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA	255.00
Case for Mini	16.00
Trinovid 7x42BA	649.00
Trinovid 8x42BA	649.00
Trinovid 10x42BA	649.00

CARL ZEISS

	£
Designer 8x20BT*P	295.00
Designer 10x25BT*P	319.00
Classic 8x20BP	249.00
Classic 10x25BP	269.00
Dialyt 8x20BGAP	315.00
Dialyt 8x30BGATP	529.00
Dialyt 7x42BGATP	639.00
Dialyt 10x40BGATP	639.00
Dialyt 10x40BT	689.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT	769.00
15x60 Porro GAT	1190.00
20x60 S	2850.00
Rainguard	8.00
Eye Cups	16.00
Lanyard	5.00
Wide Lanyard	15.00

NIKON

	£
7x20CF III	165.00
9x25CF III	89.00
10x25CF III	109.00
9-32BGA	379.00
10X42BGA	399.00
8x40DCF	539.00
8x30E	229.00
10x35E	249.00
Fieldscope II	
20x60	304.00
20x45x60	379.00
Fieldscope EDII	
20x60	555.00
20x45x60	629.00

15x/20x/30x/40x	75.00
60x	85.00
20x45x Zoom	147.00
Hoya MC Filter	20.00
Rubber Lens Hood	10.00
Photo Kit	168.00
Stay-on Case	45.00
Spotting Scope	
20x60GA	199.00
15x45x60GA	265.00
20x	34.95
15-45x Zoom	100.00

SWIFT

	£
Trilyte 8x42BGA	148.00
Trylite 10x42BGA	150.00
Audubon HR5 8.5x44	239.00
Viewmaster 60 Body	149.00
15x45x Zoom	49.00
20x	20.00
Case	15.00

QUESTAR

	£
Field Model 3 1/3" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with	
50x-80x Hood, Case	2200.00
30x-50x	130.00
80x-130x	130.00
Erector Prism	289.00

OPTOLYTH

	£
Alpin 8x30BGA	227.00
Alpin 8x40BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA	249.00
Alpin 10X50BGA	268.00
Touring 8x32BGA	395.00
Touring 7x42BGA	445.00
Touring 10x40BGA	445.00
TBS HD Body	645.00
TBG HD Body	645.00
TBS 80 Body	390.00
TBG 80 Body	390.00
20xWW	122.00
30xWA	77.00
30xWW (new)	135.00
40xWA (new)	77.00
22x60xZoom	159.00
Stay on Case for TBS/TBG	45.00

KOWA

	£
TS-601 Body	219.00
TS-602 Body	199.00
20xWA	64.00
25x	54.00
27xW	94.00
20x-60xZoom	109.00
Case	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20x-60x Zoom	169.00
20xWA	109.00
25x	69.00
30xWA	139.00
40x	69.00
60x	119.00
77x	109.00
Skuo Case	39.95
Rear Dust Dome	15.00
27xWA (Screwfit)	59.00
Screw Bay Adaptor	20.00
Case for TSN	24.95
Photo Adapt 800mm	129.00
Photo Adapt 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

	£
Vega II 8x30	149.95
Vega II 8x40	154.95
Dioptron 8x32	119.00
Dioptron 8x42	122.00
Dioptron 10x42	125.00
Dioptron 10x50	135.00
HR 8x32 MC	152.00
HR 8x42 MC	155.00
HR 10x42 MC	162.00
HR 10x50MC	178.00
HR Body 80mm	269.00
30xWA	33.00
27x-80x Zoom	85.00
HR Body 22x & Case	179.95
HR GA 22x & Case	189.95
HR 45 22x & Case	219.95
HR Body 20x-60x & Case	219.95
HR GA20x-60x & Case	229.95
HR 45 20x-60x & Case	249.95
25x, 40x, 22xWA	32.00
Classic IF60	110.00
Classic IF75	140.00
18xWA or 22 x WA	24.00
25x or 30x	24.00
18x-45x or 22-47x zoom	61.00
Piccolo MKII Body	128.00
Eye Pieces from	29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60	355.00
Piccolo ED 20x-60x60	399.00
Photo Kits from	30.00
Cases for scopes	15.00
Macro Monocular	50.00

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS

	£
Opticron 20x80	390.00
Opticron 30x80	395.00

ROSS

	£
Cavendish 8x42B	139.95
Hanover 10x42B	149.95
Regent 8x42B	169.95
Kensington 10x42B	179.95

SWAROVSKI

	£
10x40 Diana	372.00
7x30SLC II	353.00
8x30SLC II	365.00
8x20B	220.00
10X25B	230.00
AT80 Body	547.00
22xWA	72.00
20x-60x Zoom	164.00
Case	93.00

BUSHNELL

	£
Spacemaster Body	145.00
S/Master Body ED	299.00
S/Master GA Body	178.00
15x45x Zoom	79.00
22xWA	32.00
Case	20.00
Photo Kit	30.00

VELBON

	£
Victory 350	39.95
D-600	69.95
D-700	79.95

CULLMANN

	£
Hide Clamp	54.95
Shoulder Pod	29.95
Q/R System	10.95
Q/R Plate	5.95

SLIK

	£
Master D-3	89.95

MANFROTTO

290/128	95.00
290B/128	99.00
144/128	105.00
144B/128	109.00
Tripod Strap	14.95
Q/R Plate	5.95
Monopod 079B or 134B	29.95

BENBO

Trekker with Cullman Video Head	89.95
Trekker Monopod	29.95
95 Monopod	34.95

ACCESSORIES

Car Window Mount	26.00
Universal Mount	26.00
Hide Clamp	38.00
Rainguards from	3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth	3.00
Tripod Strap	6.95
Lanyards from	4.00
Dust Away	3.95
Double eyepiece Case	9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case	24.50
Equipment Guide	3.95

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Three months interest-free credit available on all orders for new equipment of £400 and above.

SECOND HAND ITEMS

Instruments always available. On receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope we can supply current price lists of binoculars and telescopes.

RSPB Business — ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1991

BLUE RIBAND CARE PLAN

For a single payment of £15 the new In Focus Blue Riband Careplan offers :-

✦ Accidental damage cover for three years from date of purchase on all new binoculars and telescopes.

✦ Guaranteed part-exchange trade-in value on any further purchases with In Focus - rising to 100% of original purchase price after five years.

MAIL AND TELEPHONE ORDERS

Any orders received by mail or telephone will automatically qualify for a free Blue Riband Care Plan worth £15. Please remember to add £2.00 towards the cost of insured Trakbak postage and packing - whether paying by cheque, Visa, Access or Mastercard - and goods will be despatched with full 14 days approval the same day on receipt of your remittance.

BIRD ILLUSTRATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Write or phone for details of our new intensive one-day bird illustration and photography workshops being held at the Lemsford Springs Reserve near Welwyn in Hertfordshire. Led by the wildlife artist, John Cox, and the bird photographer, Dave Cottridge, bookings are now being taken for the autumn programme. As places on each workshop are limited apply now to avoid disappointment.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECOND HAND SCOPES ASK FOR DETAILS

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK at the Briarfields Hotel at Titchwell in Norfolk on purchases of £400 or more at the current In Focus list prices.

PART EXCHANGE

Top prices paid for good condition telescopes and binoculars.

D183

BIRDQUEST

FIRST CHOICE IN AFRICA

Yellow-headed Rockfowl



The African Experts - offering the finest, most wide-ranging programme of African birding tours and the smallest group size limit (10-12).

The Pioneers - exploring new areas across the continent in 1993 including the rainforests of Ivory Coast and Gabon, the endemic-rich islands of the Gulf of Guinea and the deserts, grasslands and mountains of interior South Africa.

The Leaders - finding Birdquesters the birds that others only dream about. Our latest Kenya group, for example, saw more East African specialities than any previous tour whilst setting a new British birding tour record of 751 species.

BIRDQUEST ... Smaller Groups, Better Birding!

For our brochure please contact us at:
Two Jays, Kemple End, Birdy Brow,
Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB6 9QY.
Tel: 0254-826317. Fax: 0254-826780.

D176

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS



FIELD DAYS

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Repairs can also be handed in. Any entrance or parking fees refunded with purchase.
★ 10.00 am to 4.00 pm ★

★ Hanningfield Reservoir
off the A130 north of Basildon, Essex on **Sunday 11th October** (near fishing lodge).

★ Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
on the B2145 into Selsey, West Sussex, on **Sundays 30th August, 27th September and 25th October.**

★ Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball station on **Sundays 6th September, 4th October and 1st November.**

★ Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 20th September, 18th October and 15th November.**

★ Bewl Water
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 30th August, 27th September and 25th October.**

★ Alton Water
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 29th November.**

★ College Lake Wildlife Centre
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (of the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the overlook hide on **20th September, 18th October and 8th November.**

★ Durlston Country Park
off the A351 near Swanage, Dorset. In the visitor centre on **Sundays 13th September and 4th October.** (A migrant bird walk will be held after 13th Sept.)

★ The Sussex Wildlife Trust at Woods Mill
Henfield, W. Sussex (A2037) on **Sunday 13th September.**

★ SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS
(off M5) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **SATURDAYS 19th September, 10th October and 21st November.**

★ N.T. WICKEN FEN
off the A1123, north-east of Cambridge. In the visitor centre on **Sunday 8th November.**

★ DINTON PASTURES COUNTRY PARK
near Reading (M4, A329(M) Woodley turnoff) and then A329 to Winnersh and Winnersh Station (B3030) on **Sunday 22nd November** in the Loddon Room

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

To celebrate 30 years in the optical business, we are offering

★ 12½% OFF all prices ★

(Offer closes 15th September 1992 at 5.00 pm, but we will continue to match any genuine prices)

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports**
 including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit**
 (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

Access

(D173)

Some examples of our stocks:

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL TELESCOPES — ask for details

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
800mm RA mirror lens kit	299
SWAROVSKI	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	329
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
* FREE WITH SCOPE *	

	£
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA	
TSN-1 (45°) body	316
TSN-2 body	316
TSN-3 body	636
TSN-4 body	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	219
TS 602 scope body (45°)	199
27x (WA) eyepiece	94
20x (WA) eyepiece	64
25x (WA)	54
20-60x zoom	109
Case	22
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope body	149
25x eyepiece	30
27x (WA) eyepiece	64
OPTOLYTH	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluonte	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150

	£
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
20-60x zoom EP	72
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15

SPECIAL OFFER

KESTREL ED WATERPROOF SCOPES:

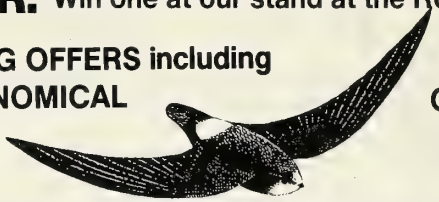
20 X 60 EDS	~~£350~~	**£280**
30 X 60 ED	~~£360~~	**£290**

	£
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Slik 444 'Sport'	79
Slik 'Shogun'	99
Manfrotto 144B/200	105
Manfrotto 190B/200	93
Manfrotto 290B/200	95
Soligor	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps, from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

FREE PAGER: Win one at our stand at the RUTLAND BIRD FAIR

SPECIAL PRICING OFFERS including
NOW! NEW ECONOMICAL
NUMERIC
PAGERS



RELIABLE
COMPREHENSIVE

THE BEST

RARE BIRD ALERT
BIRD PAGERS



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS FOR YOURSELF:

The BEST news service

There's no longer any need to wonder WHAT the latest bird news is; WHEN you're going to find out (or even HOW MUCH you'll spend finding it).

Simply read all the news, as it happens, on a Rare Bird Alert message pager, including updates, directions, and negative news.

It's reliable, comprehensive and extremely cost effective, with no nasty surprises when the bills come in.

For an info pack with a sample print-out of a days messages and an order form:
call **Dick Filby** on 0603 767799 or call Inter-City, **Free**, and ask for Rare Bird Alert

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

(D168)

INTER-CITY PAGING



RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS

A COMPLETELY NEW EXPERIENCE

Escorted tours with English speaking ornithologists visiting areas of the former Soviet Union never before possible.

May 4	Boreal Forest of Russia
May 5	Great Caucasus Mountains
May 11	Boreal Forest of Russia
May 19	Ussuriland & Amur Delta
May 20	Kazakhstan & Altai
June 5	Taimyr & Central Siberia
June 14	Amur Delta, Sakhalin & Kamchatka
June 15	Altai & Mongolia
June 16	Tuva, Central Asia & Lake Baikal
June 17	The Best of the Siberian Arctic
July 15 & August 1	The Best of the Tien Shan Mountains

Independent birding trips for small groups — you've dreamed about them, now it's possible!

Relict & Ross's Gulls, Ibisbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, five species of Snowcock, Pander's Ground Jay — need we go on!

Contact Paul Dukes

RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS
57 Fore Street
Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1PG
Tel: 0548 856437 Fax: (0548) 857537

(D186)

ABTA

FREE! Exclusive Birdwatcher's Logbook Worth £11.95

FOR THE LOWEST PRICES & BEST ADVICE

WITH ANY SCOPE OR BINO PURCHASE OVER £100

SCOPES

BAUSCH & LOMB

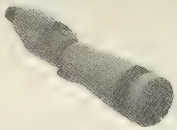
Elite 77mm Scope Body	£375
Elite 20-60x Zoom	£198
Elite 20x Eyepiece	£149

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle)	£219
TSN-602 Body (straight)	£199
20 x WA	£64
27 x (New) WA	£94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle)	£316
TSN 2 Body (straight)	£316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle)	£636
TSN 4 Body (straight)	£636
20 x WA	£109
25 x	£69
30 x WA	£139
40 x	£69
60 x	£119
77 x	£109
20-60x Zoom	£169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof)	£39.95
Standard Case	£24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm)	£129

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549



Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x £265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x £304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x £379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x £554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x £629.95
Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31
HR Photoadaptor Variable	£33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON SCOPE DEALS — Don't read the list, PHONE for UK's lowest prices!

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	£199
8 x 20 BCA	£239
10 x 25 BC	£239
10 x 25 BCA	£255
7 x 42 BA	£649
8 x 42 BA	£649
10 x 42 BA	£649

All normally available in black or green finish.

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£249
10 x 25 B	£269
8 x 20 BGA	£315
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£529
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£699
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style)	£319

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact	£215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism	£365
10 x 25 Roof Prism Compact	£240

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY	£269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA	£199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA 'P'	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA 'P'	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
10 x 25 CF III Compact	£112
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199
8 x 40 Sporting II	£119.95
10 x 50 Sporting II	£139.95
7 x 50 Sporting II	£129

ANGENIEUX

8 x 24 F Compact	£249

SECONDHAND

BINOS

Zeiss Jena 10 x 40 BGA Notarem	£149
Swift Skipper 7 x 50 Mark II	£79
Swift Trilyte Mk III 10 x 40	£79
Tokina 10 x 40 Roof Prism	£79
Penta 8 x 40 WA	£89
Leica 10 x 25BCA + Case	£189

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Slik D3	£89.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95

Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen) 0703 221597/335363

Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

5% RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- Part exchange welcomed.
- Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- Major credit cards accepted.

(D182)

FIELD EVENT AT HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK

In conjunction with Huntingdon RSPB group

Meet us at Hinchingbrooke Park on **Sunday 13th September** where we will have a range of optical equipment for testing and sale. **10am - 4.30pm.**

Please phone us if you have specific requirements.

Free Admission for a day of birding activities for the family to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Huntingdonshire RSPB Group.

* FOCUS OPTICS

Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

* Please note that BOOK TOKENS MAY NOW BE PURCHASED AND EXCHANGED FROM OUR BOOK DEPARTMENT.

ZEISS

10x40 BGAT*P	639.00
7x42 BGAT*P	639.00
8x30 BGAT*P	529.00
Design selection	
8x20 BT*P	295.00
10x25 BT*P	319.00

LEICA

Trinovid 8x20 BCA	239.00
Trinovid 10x25 BCA	255.00
7x42 BA	649.00
8x42 BA	649.00
10x42 BA	649.00

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8x40 BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40 BGA	249.00
Touring 10x40	445.00
TBS/G 80 Body	390.00
TBS/G 80 Fluorite	549.00
22x-60x zoom EP	159.00
20xWA	122.00
30xWA	135.00

NIKON

8x32 DCF RA	380.00
10x40 DCF RA	400.00
8x30 ECF	229.00
Fieldscope Mk II 20-45x60	379.00
ED Mk II 20-45x60	629.00
30x40x	79.95
Spotting scope 20x60 RA	199.00
15-45x60 RA	265.00

ADLERBLICK

Multicoat 8x42	169.95
Multicoat 10x42	179.95
Multicoat 10x50	198.95
Add £15 for rubber armoured Multicoat	

KOWA

TS 601 Body	219.00
TS 602 Body	199.00
20xWA	64.00
25x40x	54.00
20x-60x zoom EP	109.00
Case for 601 and 602	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20xWA	109.00
30xWA	139.00
25x40x	69.00
20x-60x zoom EP	169.00
Case for TSN Range	24.95
Skua case for TSN	39.00
Photo adaptor 800mm	129.00
Photo adaptor 1200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

Compact 7x24	80.00
Compact 8x24	81.00
Compact 10x24	83.00
H.R. 8x42	157.00
H.R. 10x42	162.00
H.R. 10x50	178.00
TELESCOPES	
Classic I.F. 25x60mm	126.00
Classic I.F. 75mm Body	140.00
25/30x H.E.P.	27.00
18x-40x/22x-47x zoom EP	66.00
H.R. 22x60	179.95
H.R. 20-60x60	219.95
H.R. 22x60 RA	189.95
H.R. 20-60x60 RA	229.95
(60mm H.R. Telescopes include Free case.)	
15x, 20x, 22x WA 25x, 40x	31.00
20x-60x zoom EP	85.00
Universal Mount	25.50
Car Window Mount	26.50

HABICHT

Compact 8x20 B	220.00
'Diana' 10x40 WM	372.00
S.L. 10x40	493.00
SLC 8x30	365.00
AT 80 Body	547.00
22x EP	72.00
20x-60x zoom EP	164.00

BAUSCH & LOMB

Custom 8x36	229.00
Custom 10x40 RA	249.00
Elite 7x36 RA.P	599.00
Elite 8x42 RA.P	659.00
Elite 10x42 RA.P	659.00
Elite Telescope 15-45x60 RA	349.00

BUSHNELL

Spacemaster 60mm Body	169.00
Spacemaster 60mm Body ED	299.00
15-45x zoom EP	79.00

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5x44	239.00

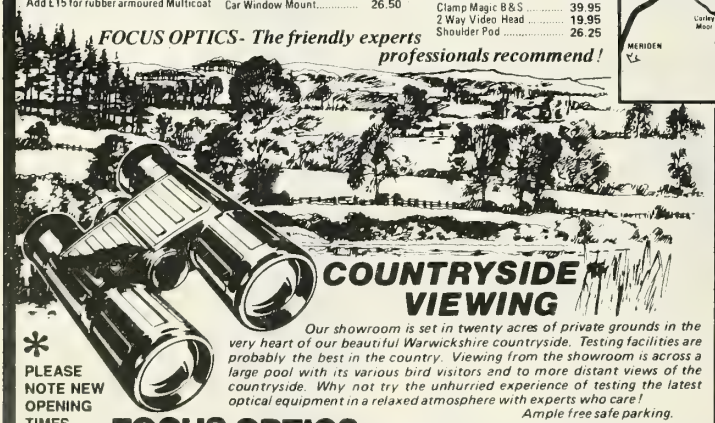
ROSS

Regent 8x42	169.95
Kensington 10x42	179.95

TRIPODS

MANFROTTO 144 Legs	60.50
190 Legs	50.50
055 Legs	79.50
290 B	54.50
200 Video Head	43.00
128 RC Video Head	49.00
SLIK D2	72.95
D3	89.95
CULLMAN 2100	65.50
3400	102.95
Clamp Magic B&S	39.95
2 Way Video Head	19.95
Shoulder Pod	26.25

FOCUS OPTICS- The friendly experts professionals recommend!



COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

* PLEASE NOTE NEW OPENING TIMES
Mon-Sat
9am-5pm
Closed Sundays D185

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA

Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

***NOTE: New opening times**

Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm (closed Sundays)

IN ADDITION TO THE RANGE LISTED WE ALSO STOCK:

QUESTAR • FUJINON • FUMOTO
MIRADOR • BRESSER • PENTAX
REDFIELD • OPTIMA • PRAKTICA
Billingham Equipment Bags.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

We stock books from the leading natural history publishers.

Poyser, Helm, Collins, RSPB, Hamlyn, Macmillan, Mitchell Beazley, Oxford University Press, Whittet, Witherby, Kingfisher, etc. Also videos from RSPB, World of Survival, BBC, and National Geographic. Send for a price list or come and browse!



ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotation.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge (UK only). Orders less than £10 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 1992

BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY)
10 SEP 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Nest-site selection by Golden Eagles in Scotland

J. Watson and R. H. Dennis



A comprehensive survey of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in Britain was carried out in 1982 (Dennis *et al.* 1984) and, during this, information was collected on a range of nest-site features. While these data were collected incidentally to the population survey, they nevertheless provide valuable insights into nest-site selection by Golden Eagles; they also give an opportunity to test whether variations in breeding success are linked to nest-site features.

Despite the extensive literature on Golden Eagles in Scotland (e.g. Gordon 1955; Brown & Watson 1964; Brown 1969; Everett 1971; Dennis *et al.* 1984; Watson *et al.* 1989), few quantitative data have been published describing the characteristics of nest sites used. By contrast, a number of studies have been done in Continental Europe (Jordano 1981; Tjernberg 1983; Bergo 1984; Fernandez 1989) and the United States (Mosher & White 1976), and these provide valuable comparative data.

Methods

Full details of the survey methods used in 1982 have been given elsewhere (Dennis *et al.* 1984). The principal aim was to visit all potential nesting areas and to document the numbers, distribution and breeding success of Golden Eagles throughout Britain. Observers also collected the following information on nest sites, and this forms the basis of the present paper:

(1) type of nest site used (cliff or tree);
(2) altitude of site above sea level;
(3) direction of exposure of site;
(4) distance from site to nearest public road;
(5) extent to which site was accessible to people;
(6) extent of deliberate or casual disturbance of site by people.

A pair of Golden Eagles usually has a number of alternative eyries (Brown 1976), and this was certainly true in the present study. Observers recorded information on all known alternative nests, although, for the purposes of analysis, and to retain statistical independence among the data, in this paper only one nest has been used for each pair of eagles. Analysis of additional-nest-site data within each home range will form the subject of a further paper in which we shall also investigate nest-site selection by pairs in different years. For the present study, we included nests known to contain eggs or young in 1982, but also, where eggs or young were not seen, nests which were built up and lined in that year. Only rarely was more than one nest lined within the home range of a pair, and in such cases the nest with the most recent history of occupation was used in the analysis. For pairs where no nest was built up, and therefore no preference shown for a site, the analysis was done on the site which had been used most recently. Not all nest-site variables were collected for all pairs of eagles, and, therefore, sample sizes vary.

Information on type of nest site was reported as cliff (including bank or bluff) or tree, with the species of tree recorded. Altitude above sea level was extracted from 1:50,000 maps and was expressed in metres. Distance (km) by straight line to nearest public road was measured from 1:50,000 maps, and a public road was defined as one on which vehicular access by members of the public was allowed. For each nest site, the direction of exposure was allocated to one of eight compass segments (N-NE, NE-E, etc.); where a nest was exposed to a range of directions, from, say, northwest to east, the direction of exposure was allocated to the segment which contained the bisector of the angle of the full range of exposure (in the example NW to E, this would be segment N-NE).

Objective assessments of measures of 'accessibility' and 'disturbance' were more difficult to obtain because the survey forms had been completed by a variety of observers and limited guidance had been given on criteria for recording this information. Nevertheless, we were able to place most responses into reasonably distinct categories which we believe could be used with consistency in any future survey. We considered 'accessibility' under three categories:

(1) nest site could be reached safely without the aid of a rope;
(2) a rope was advisable for safety, but not essential;
(3) it was physically impossible to reach the site without a rope.

Similarly, we interpreted the returns on 'disturbance' and placed these into three categories:

(1) no evidence of disturbance detected by the observer in 1982, nor in the recent past (previous 5-10 years);
(2) some evidence of unintentional disturbance by hill-walkers, or occasional evidence of visits by egg-collectors either in 1982 or in recent past;
(3) evidence of use of poisons within the home range, killing of adult eagles, destruction of nests and contents, or persistent egg-collecting in 1982 and/or in recent past.

Geographical variation across the Scottish highlands and islands

Dennis *et al.* (1984) reported a minimum of 424 home ranges occupied by pairs of Golden Eagles in Britain, with over 98% of these in the Scottish highlands and islands northwest of a line from Glasgow to Aberdeen (see fig. 1). This, therefore, is the area to which the nest-site data chiefly refer, although all pairs for which some nest-site data were available were included in our analysis.

There is pronounced geographical and ecological variation across the highlands and islands, and this is most marked from west to east. The highly oceanic climate of the western seaboard contrasts markedly with the drier, more continental climate of the eastern highlands. A detailed account of the vegetation of the highlands is given by McVean & Ratcliffe (1962). One of the most conspicuous and ecologically profound changes from west to east is the increasing importance of ericaceous plants (principally heather *Calluna vulgaris*) among ground vegetation, and a consequent reduction in the importance of graminoid vegetation (grass-dominated communities). This has a bearing on the amount of prey available to Golden Eagles, which, over much of Scotland, feed extensively on two species, the mountain hare *Lepus timidus* and the Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* (Watson *et al.* 1987); both these animals depend heavily on heather and are consequently much more plentiful in the eastern highlands (Jenkins *et al.* 1963; Hewson 1976; Savory 1986).

There are also important topographic differences between west and east. On the western seaboard and the islands, much of the ground is generally low-lying, although there are exceptions such as the Cuillins on Skye and the Harris hills. Inland, the ground rises steeply and hills tend to be rocky, with extensive crags and sharp peaks and ridges. The mountains of the eastern highlands are more rounded, with fewer crags and extensive high-level montane plateaux; remnant Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* woodland is more extensive in the east, and the natural tree-line is generally at a higher elevation (Nethersole-Thompson & Watson 1981).

Linked to these important differences in climate, vegetation and topography are key differences in land-use. In the western highlands, the emphasis is on hill-sheep farming, with some red deer *Cervus elaphus* management for sport, and, increasingly in recent years, conifer afforestation. In the central highlands, red deer management predominates, and in the east the land is managed for game, with deer on the higher ground and grouse moor at lower elevations (McVean & Lockie 1969; Watson *et al.* 1987; Ratcliffe 1990).

In recognition of these important west-east differences, we used longitudinal divisions based on the national grid to subdivide the eagle population and, within these bands, nest-site data were, where appropriate, pooled for analysis.

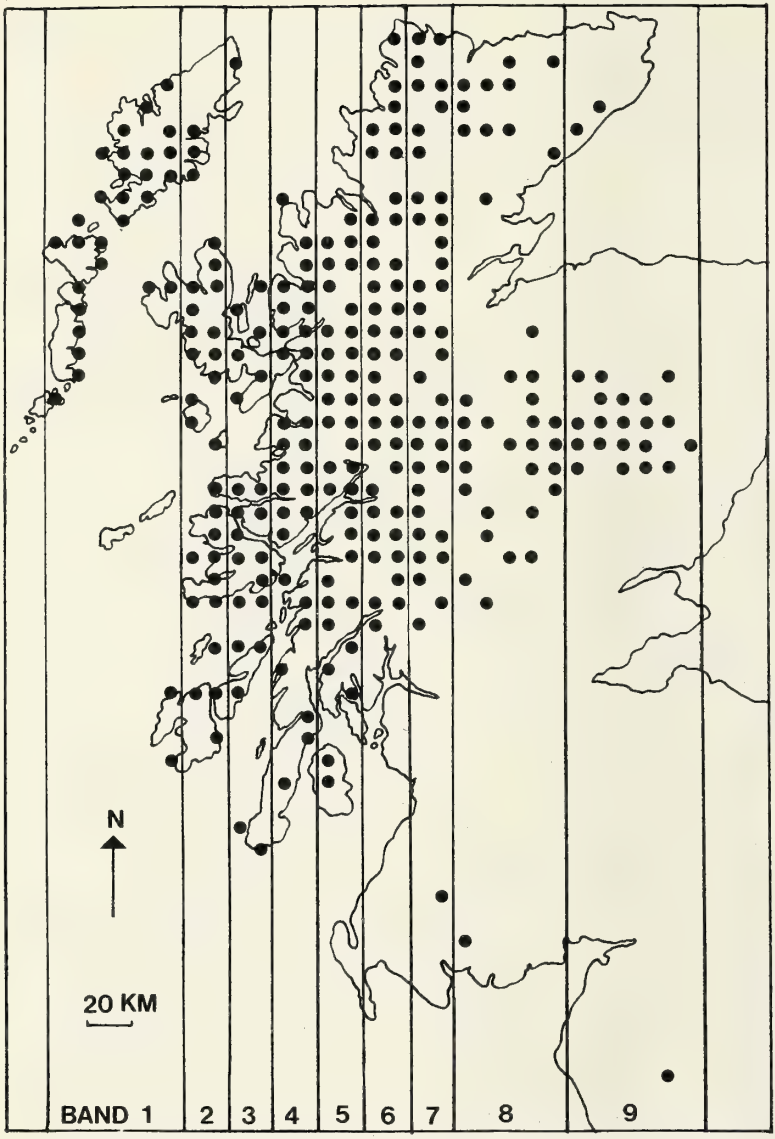


Fig. 1. Map showing distribution of 10 × 10 km squares from which nests of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* were reported in Britain in 1982. Vertical 'bands' (1-9) indicate west-east longitudinal divisions used in subsequent analysis. Sample sizes for eagle nests located in each band are given in table 1. For reasons of confidentiality, four 10 × 10 km squares are omitted from map, although data from the sites involved are included in text

The bands used are shown in fig. 1 (the variation in band width was dictated by the need to retain roughly equal and statistically adequate sample sizes). We investigated the possibility that there might be other patterns which reflected a north-south gradation, but none was detected and we therefore restricted our geographical analysis to the west-east comparison.

Results

In the present study, nest-site information was available for around 400 pairs of eagles, although data on 'accessibility' of and 'disturbance' to nest sites were fewer. Results are presented under the six headings 'nest type', 'altitude', 'direction of exposure', 'distance to road', 'accessibility', and 'disturbance'. The first three relate to the question of nest-site selection by eagles; and the last three to the potential effect of direct or indirect human actions on the site, and thereby on the probability of successful nesting.

Nest type

Nest type was recorded for 410 pairs, of which 392 (95.6%) used cliffs and 18 (4.4%) used trees. Of the latter, all but one were in Scots pines, the other being in a larch *Larix*. Among nests not used in 1982, there were two records of sites in oaks *Quercus*. The distribution of tree nesting is heavily skewed to the east (table 1), with less than 1% of pairs using trees in the western part (bands 1-5) and nearly 10% in the eastern part (bands 6-9).

Table 1. Number of pairs of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* using cliff or tree nests in different parts of British range in 1982

For definition of bands, see fig. 1

	BAND									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Cliff	45	45	33	49	55	57	53	36	19	392
Tree	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	10	18
TOTAL	45	45	34	49	55	60	54	39	29	410

Altitude

Altitude in metres was recorded for 410 nests and is shown for the nine longitudinal bands (table 2, fig. 2). The measure of the mean maximum altitude for land in the nine bands was derived by recording the maximum elevation in each of the 10 × 10 km squares from which eagles with nests were reported in 1982, and averaging this figure for each of the nine bands. The mean elevation of sites is given as a percentage of the mean maximum elevation of the surrounding landscape.

Table 2. Mean altitude above sea level (m ± 2s.e.) of nest sites of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in different sectors of population in 1982, with mean maximum altitude (m ± 2s.e.) for 10 × 10 km squares within each respective band

For definition of bands, see fig. 1

	BAND								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(a) Mean nest-site elevation	154±29	211±42	208±38	281±35	372±34	442±38	402±33	474±56	460±55
(b) Mean maximum elevation	345±72	446±89	459±98	640±85	855±73	904±57	844±63	777±83	778±91
% a/b	44.6	47.3	45.3	43.9	43.5	48.9	47.6	61.0	59.1

The results show a steady rise in the mean elevation of sites from west to east, with an indication of levelling off from band 6 eastwards (this is approximately east of the line of the watershed). For bands 1-7, there is remarkable conformity in the elevation of nests in relation to maximum elevation of the surrounding land, with eagles nesting consistently at just under 50% of the maximum elevation. In the two easternmost bands, nests were located higher in relation to the maximum surrounding altitude, at around 60% of the mean maximum elevation.

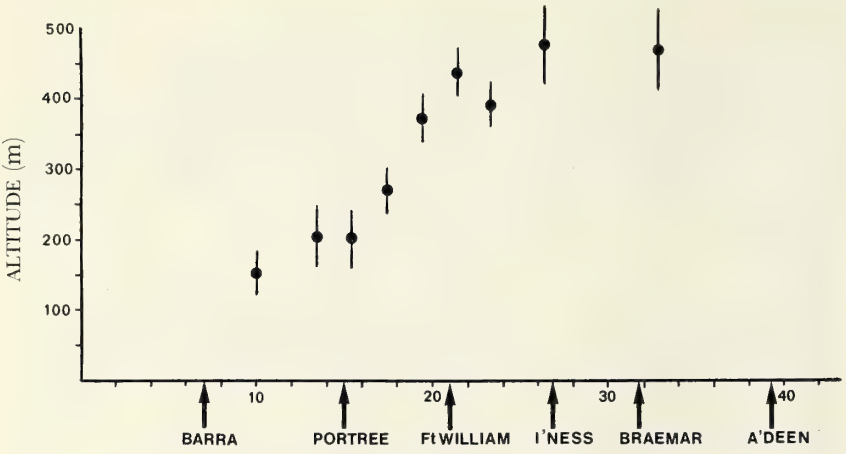


Fig. 2. Mean altitude in metres (m ± 2se) of nest sites of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in nine 'bands' across Scotland. See fig. 1 for explanation of 'bands'. For reference, positions of six key localities across Scotland are indicated (Barra, Portree, Fort William, Inverness, Braemar, Aberdeen). The horizontal scale is comprised of 2 × 10-km lengths passing across Scotland from west to east, starting arbitrarily at the first 100-km National Grid line west of the Hebrides

Direction of exposure

Information on direction of exposure was available for 407 nest sites. All data are presented on the basis of the number or proportion of nests with their principal direction of exposure recorded in one of eight segments (table 3, fig. 3). By our own convention, the segment N-NE included all directional-exposure records reported by observers as either N or NNE, segment NE-E included all records reported as NE or ENE, and so on. To investigate the extent to which any skewed distribution of the direction of exposure of hill slopes (and therefore potential nesting places) may have influenced the direction of exposure of nest sites, we selected a point at random within each 10 × 10 km square in which Golden Eagles were reported nesting in 1982. The exposure of the slope at each of these points was then ascribed to one of the eight segments using the same conventions as for nest sites. Results, given alongside nest-site data in fig. 3, indicate that the direction of exposure of slopes prevailing in nature across the highlands and islands is not significantly different from a null hypothesis which predicts an equal distribution among the eight segments. The direction of exposure of nest sites, however, was significantly different from the distribution expected on the same null hypothesis ($\chi^2 = 96.2$; df = 7; $p<0.001$). There were many more nests with exposures in the three segments between NW and E (58.3%) than in the three segments between SE and W (21.4%).

Table 3. Principal direction of exposure in eight compass segments of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* nests, with exposure directions of hill slopes selected at random from 10 × 10 km squares within nesting range

		N-NE	NE-E	E-SE	SE-S	S-SW	SW-W	W-NW	NW-N	Total
Nest sites	no.	100	76	48	32	23	32	35	61	407
	(%)	(24.6)	(18.7)	(11.8)	(7.9)	(5.6)	(7.9)	(8.6)	(15.0)	
Hill slopes	no.	42	28	39	42	40	34	34	24	283
	(%)	(14.8)	(9.9)	(13.8)	(14.8)	(14.1)	(12.0)	(12.0)	(8.5)	

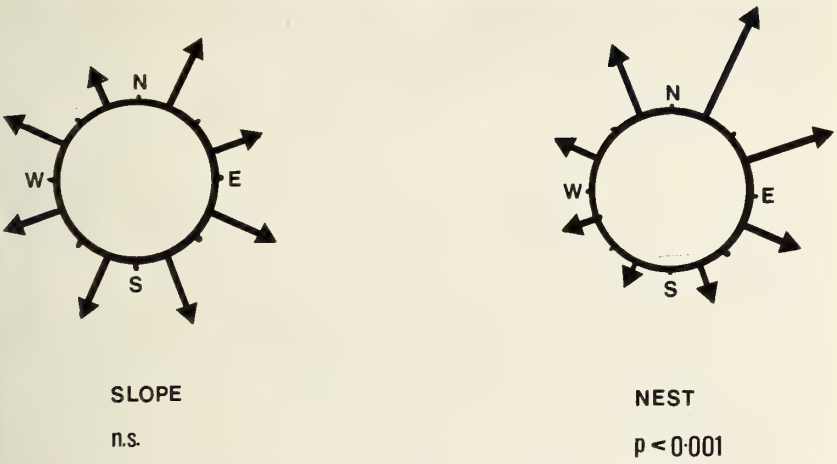


Fig. 3. Direction of exposure of 407 nest sites and of hill slopes at 283 localities (stratified random sample, see text) across range of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. Length of each arrow indicates proportion of nests/slopes recorded in each compass segment (for numerical data see table 3)

Distance to road

It might be expected that Golden Eagles, which are considered particularly vulnerable to human disturbance, would abandon active nest sites situated close to public roads more readily than those farther away. If this hypothesis is correct, then the proportion of nesting attempts which fail altogether should be highest close to public roads and decrease progressively as distance to nearest road increases. Distance to nearest public road was recorded for 406 nest sites, and for analytical purposes the numbers of nests were pooled for distance intervals of 1-km width; all nests more than 8 km from a road were pooled in order to avoid small samples. Table 4 gives the proportion of nests which failed to produce any young in 1982 in relation to distance from public road. There was no significant relationship ($r = 0.116$; n.s.), indicating that probability of nesting failure was not related to distance between nest site and public road.

Table 4. Number of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* nest sites located at different distances from public roads, with respective percentages of 1982 nesting attempts which failed

	DISTANCE TO PUBLIC ROAD (km)								
	0.1-1	1.1-2	2.1-3	3.1-4	4.1-5	5.1-6	6.1-7	7.1-8	>8
No. of nests	31	66	76	57	49	44	28	25	30
% failed	51.6	62.1	56.6	57.9	59.1	52.3	64.3	64.0	43.3

Accessibility

Are eagles which use nest sites that are more accessible to people more prone to failure than those at sites that are difficult to reach? Table 5 shows the incidence of nesting failure at sites which were classified as easy (1), moderate (2) and difficult (3) in terms of accessibility. Pairs using class 3 sites were significantly more likely to fledge young successfully than were those using sites classified as 1 ($\chi^2 = 6.37$; df = 1; $p<0.05$); sites classified as 2 were intermediate, as would be expected. Interestingly, the eagles using class 1 sites, if they were successful at all, raised broods of two chicks more frequently than did those at class 3 sites, although the difference was not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 2.81$; df = 1; $p<0.1$); again, class 2 sites were intermediate.

Table 5. Incidence of breeding failures together with fledging success at Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* nest sites classified as easy (1), moderate (2) or difficult (3) in terms of accessibility

See text for definition of terms 1-3

			NO. OF YOUNG FLEDGED			
	Failed	(%)	1	2	(% 1+2)	Total
Easy	47	(69.1)	15	6	(30.9)	68
Moderate	73	(54.9)	47	13	(45.1)	133
Difficult	73	(49.7)	66	8	(50.3)	147

Disturbance

Data on disturbance were available for 335 pairs in 1982 (table 6). These show that, while breeding failure was reported for 46.2% of pairs which were not considered subject to disturbance (class 1), this figure rose to 74.3% for class 2 (some threat identified) and to 93.1% for class 3 (serious persecution reported). The incidence of class 3 disturbance among the population as a whole was comparatively low, at 8.7%, and class 2 was higher, at 20.9%, leaving 70.4% with no serious disturbance reported in 1982.

Table 6. Assessments of level of disturbance according to three classes (low, moderate or severe) at nest sites of 335 pairs of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in 1982, together with respective fledging success

See text for definition of classes of disturbance

			NO. OF YOUNG FLEDGED				
Disturbance	0	(%)	1	2	(% 1+2)	Total	%
Low	109	(46.2)	107	20	(53.8)	236	(70.4)
Moderate	52	(74.3)	14	4	(25.7)	70	(20.9)
Severe	27	(93.1)	2	0	(6.9)	29	(8.7)
TOTAL	188		123	24		335	

Table 7. Number of nests subject to disturbance according to three classes (low, moderate or severe) in different parts of Golden Eagle's *Aquila chrysaetos* range across Scotland in 1982

See text for definition of classes of disturbance, and fig. 1 for definition of bands

	BAND										
Disturbance	1	2	3	4	5	(% 1-5)	6	7	8	9	(% 6-9)
Low	21	23	21	32	42	(74.3)	44	28	13	12	(65.6)
Moderate	10	7	2	15	9	(23.0)	8	9	7	3	(18.2)
Severe	2	2	0	1	0	(2.7)	0	4	13	7	(16.2)
Totals	33	32	23	48	51		52	41	33	22	

TOTAL NO. OF NESTS 335

The distribution of each level of persecution across the range of the species is shown in table 7. The number of sites subject to moderate disturbance (class 2) was not significantly different between the western and eastern segments of the population (bands 1-5, 23.0%; bands 6-9, 18.2%). The frequency of occurrence of serious persecution, however, was significantly higher in the east than in the west (bands 6-9, 16.2%; bands 1-5, 2.7%: $\chi^2 = 17.49$; df = 1; $p<0.001$). Much the highest incidence of serious disturbance was among sites in the two bands farthest east (8 and 9), where the combined figure was 36.4%.

These data allowed us to estimate the number of young which might have been reared to fledging in the absence of moderate or severe disturbance. Assuming that the 99 pairs reported to experience either moderate or severe disturbance were allowed to produce at least as many young as the pairs reportedly suffering no disturbance, then the figures for young fledged per pair should match the 0.62 per pair for undisturbed nests. This would suggest that a minimum of 22 chicks failed to fledge from 70 nests in disturbance class 2 and another 16 from 29 nests in class 3: giving an estimated loss of 38 chicks from a potential annual production figure of 209 from the 335

pairs for which the disturbance level was documented, or an annual loss through disturbance of 18%. This is undoubtedly an underestimate since most losses from disturbance occurred in the eastern half of the range, where breeding performance in the absence of persecution was significantly higher than in the west, mainly because food in the form of live prey is much more plentiful on the eastern moors (Watson *et al.* 1987, 1989).

Discussion

Nest-site selection

Typically, Golden Eagles in Scotland nest on cliffs, at elevations between 150 and 450 m above sea level and with the principal direction of exposure lying between northwest and east. The frequency of tree nesting is higher in the eastern half of the range, where nesting is also at higher elevations compared with the 'oceanic' west. Judging by the distribution of the directions of exposure of hill slopes, there is a clear preference for nesting with a northerly rather than a southerly exposure. Eagles were most likely to nest at elevations of just under half the maximum altitude of the surrounding landscape, although in the most easterly part of the range nests were at around 60% of the maximum elevation.

Throughout most of Europe, tree nests make up less than 10% of the total (e.g. Bulgaria—Michev *et al.* 1989; Spain—Fernandez 1989; Italy—Fasce & Fasce 1984; Switzerland—Haller 1982; France—Mathieu & Choisy 1982; Yugoslavia—Grubac 1988), and the results from Scotland are therefore typical. Nests in trees are in the majority in Sweden (Tjernberg 1983), Finland (Sulkava *in litt.*) and Czechoslovakia (Voskar *et al.* 1969); in Estonia and Belarus, Golden Eagles are exclusively tree-nesting (T. Randla *in litt.*; V. V. Ivanovsky *in litt.*). In the Baltic States and eastern Fennoscandia, the species inhabits mainly relatively flat wooded-bog landscapes, where there is simply no option but to nest in trees. Most mountain landscapes offer an abundance of cliff nest sites, and it would appear that, where cliffs are available, they are the preferred choice (Haller 1982). The relatively high proportion of tree nesting in eastern Scotland is consistent with this, since the rounded hillsides offer many fewer crag-nesting options than do the rocky hills of the west. Indeed, since most of the original forest of Britain has been lost, and given a lack of suitable cliffs in many eastern areas, it is likely that nest-site availability is one factor limiting Golden Eagle distribution in parts of eastern and southern Scotland and northeast England where otherwise there would appear to be abundant food.

The steady rise in the altitude of nest sites from the western seaboard eastwards indicates that eagles are choosing sites in relation to some environmental variable which changes across this part of Scotland. The most likely variable is food, and more particularly where that food occurs. In western Scotland, the amount of prey, in particular Red Grouse and mountain hare, available in mountain and moorland habitats is a fraction of that available farther east (Watson *et al.* 1987), and eagles must therefore hunt more low-ground prey such as rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and seabirds. The need to minimise the transportation of such prey 'up the hill' to nests probably dictates the preferred elevation of sites here. While eagles in the central and eastern highlands have nests at a similar mean elevation of around 450 m, there are subtle differences: those in the central highlands nest at around 48% of the

maximum surrounding elevation, while eastern birds are at 60% of the maximum. Again, we believe this to be food-related and suggest that the high numbers of Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*, Red Grouse and mountain hares on the extensive rounded summits and mountain plateaux are sufficient to allow successful breeding at these relatively high elevations, even though there is comparatively less hunting ground above the nesting sites. It may also be that levels of persecution in the eastern highlands (see below) have favoured the selection of nesting sites at higher elevations which may be more secure, but which may not be optimal in terms of providing food for nestlings.

The average altitude of nest sites varies widely across Europe and is certainly related to the availability of suitable hunting ground and food. In Norway and Sweden, the mean elevation is around 500-600 m (Bergo 1984; Tjernberg 1983) and coincides closely with the natural tree-line; here, eagles hunt extensive open land above the tree-line and are therefore almost always able to transport prey downhill to nests, giving potential energy savings (Glutz von Blotzheim *et al.* 1971; Haller 1982). In Spain, there are populations at two distinct altitudinal levels, with eagles nesting in some parts of the peninsula at around 600 m (Jordano 1981) and in the Pirineos (Pyrénées) at nearer 1,500 m (Fernandez 1989); a similar dichotomy is reported in France (Mathieu & Choisy 1982) and Italy (Fasce & Fasce 1987; Magrini *et al.* 1987). In each case, the explanation is related to availability of food and suitable hunting ground. In the arid landscapes of the Iberian peninsula, Provence in France and the Appennines in Italy, fire combined with pastoral activity has provided open ground for hunting at comparatively low elevations, and with it prey such as rabbits, brown hares *Lepus capensis* and Red-legged Partridges *Alectoris rufa* (Watson 1991). By contrast, in the truly alpine mountains (the Alps and Pyrénées), dense forest cover over low and intermediate slopes excludes Golden Eagles, and they reappear at about the tree-line (1,500-1,800 m), where they nest, transporting their favoured prey of marmots *Marmota marmota* downhill from alpine meadows. One final example of food and hunting habitat dictating nesting altitude comes from Estonia, where virtually the whole landmass, and therefore each nest site, is situated below 200 m altitude. And yet, here again, the Golden Eagle is occupying a 'tree-line'-like habitat with patchy woodland interspersed with open bog (Zastrov 1946; Randla *in litt.*). Here, it is the high watertable, rather than low temperatures, the effects of grazing, fire or drought, that prevents tree growth and thereby offers suitable terrain for eagles to hunt; this time, their favoured prey is the Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (Zastrov 1946). Given the evidence from Continental Europe, it is interesting to speculate that the extant variation in mean elevation of nesting sites across Scotland may reflect an ancestral tree-line.

Despite the availability of slopes facing equally all segments of the compass, Golden Eagles in Scotland appear to choose nests with a northerly rather than a southerly exposure. There are several possible reasons for this and we offer two explanations, both of which invoke the effects of weather:

(1) Golden Eagles in Scotland may prefer sites facing north by east to provide maximum protection from prevailing inclement weather, which comes mainly from the southwest;

(2) they could prefer north-facing sites to avoid excessive exposure to sun, and thereby reduce risks to nestlings of overheating.

Evidence from elsewhere in Europe is revealing. In Norway and Sweden, where eagles nest at higher elevations (500-600 m) than in Scotland and yet receive inclement weather on the same southwesterly airstream, the principal direction of exposure in both cases is southerly (Bergo 1984; Tjernberg 1983). In southern Europe, the high-altitude (1,500-1,800 m) nesting populations in the Alps and Pyrénées both show preference for south-facing sites (Fernandez 1989; Henninger *et al.* 1987), while comparatively low-altitude populations at 600-900 m in Spain, Italy, Sicily and Yugoslavia all avoid southerly aspects (Jordano 1981; Magrini *et al.* 1987; Seminara *et al.* 1987; Grubac 1988). Thus, populations at similar latitudes but differing altitudes show a complete shift in direction of exposure; these results are consistent with the second explanation (above). The sites at higher elevations, where temperatures are cooler, may, we suggest, gain from increased insolation, while eagles nesting at low-level sites which risk overheating must take avoiding action. These findings support a similar analysis of nest-site exposure in the USA (Mosher & White 1976).

Nest-site characteristics and breeding success

We found no evidence that proximity to public roads increased the probability of nesting failure. Similar findings have been reported from Sweden (Tjernberg 1983). In Norway (Bergo 1984), there was a reported dearth of nests situated less than 500 m from public roads, and this was interpreted as avoidance of such locations on account of disturbance. In Scotland, a number of nest sites very close to public roads have been abandoned over the past 40 years (J. Watson, unpublished data). It may, therefore, be that any detrimental effect caused by road-users leads relatively quickly to the abandonment of a site, and thereby precludes the detection of suppressed breeding performance linked to proximity to roads. If abandonment of such sites is the Golden Eagle's response to disturbance from road-users, then this may ultimately be detectable during subsequent surveys, when the mean distance between sites and public roads should increase.

Our analysis showed that pairs using nest sites judged to be easily accessible to people were more likely to fail completely than were pairs using inaccessible eyries. There was no detectable pattern across the species' range in the distribution of nests of a particular ease or difficulty of access. Clearly, nests which are accessible without the aid of a rope would be more likely to receive the attentions of egg-collectors and others with a desire illegally to destroy the contents of the eyrie. Such nests might also be vulnerable to pine martens *Martes martes*, red foxes *Vulpes vulpes* or to the risk of trampling by wild goats *Capra*, although it is unlikely that the impact of any of these is as marked as that of people. We have found no equivalent analysis of breeding failure in relation to nest-site accessibility in the European literature.

The key finding of the disturbance analysis related to the distribution of the most serious type of disturbance (severe persecution). The vast majority of sites subject to severe persecution, which was defined as frequent destruction of eggs and young, killing of adults and/or use of poisons, were in the eastern one-third of the range. Specifically, there was substantial evidence of such persecution in Caithness, east Sutherland, Speyside, Deeside and Perthshire, and in each case this coincided with areas managed principally for Red Grouse.

There were isolated instances of severe persecution in sheep-farming areas on the western seaboard, but these amounted to a small fraction of the cases linked to grouse moors. The frequency and extent of this phenomenon will be documented during the course of future national surveys of Golden Eagles and, as such, may indicate whether the problem is receding or increasing. So far, we have evidence that, since 1982, the locations suffering severe persecution have changed (J. Watson and R. H. Dennis, unpublished data; A. G. Payne *in litt.*), although there is still no evidence that levels of persecution generally have declined (RSPB & NCC 1991).

Acknowledgments

The success of the 1982 Golden Eagle survey was due to the many hours of fieldwork, often in difficult weather and terrain, by a dedicated group of eagle enthusiasts. We are extremely grateful to the following for their efforts: R. Ashcroft, G. & I. Bates, B. D. & P. M. Batty, W. Brackenridge, R. A. Broad, K. Brockie, H. Brown, N. E. Buxton, E. Cameron, D. N. Carstairs, J. Carruthers, J. Chapman, D. A. Coleman, R. V. Collier, M. J. H. Cook, D. Counsell, the late P. S. Coxon, K. Crane, E. Cross, W. A. J. Cunningham, K. Davies, D. Dick, D. W. Duncan, E. Duthie, P. J. Ellis, M. J. Everett, K. Fairclough, G. Flogdale, C. Geddes, D. Gowans, M. J. P. Gregory, J. J. Hardey, M. I. Harvey, T. W. Henderson, I. Hopkins, E. Jensen, T. Johnson-Ferguson, R. Kirk, D. R. Langslow, J. A. Love, P. Madden, M. Madders, E. MacDonald, M. MacGregor, D. & B. Mackaskill, P. McKenna, L. MacNally, A. R. Mainwood, E. R. Meek, J. Mitchell, K. Nellist, M. Nicoll, A. G. Payne, S. J. Petty, B. Philp, D. Pierce, D. M. Pullin, R. Rae, S. Rae, A. D. K. Ramsey, G. Rebecca, J. Rhead, M. Richards, A. B. Richie, A. Rollo, J. Rowbottom, R. Roxburgh, P. W. Sandeman, A. Scott, N. Sharp, J. Smith, P. Stirling-Aird, D. & J. Stroud, R. L. Swann, T. Talbot, R. Thaxton, M. Tomkies, the late P. J. Tullet, D. G. Walker, M. Walker, A. Watson, D. N. Weir, R. Wood, S. J. Woolfall. We also thank Sandy Payne and Martin Nugent for improving an earlier draft. The 1982 Golden Eagle survey was jointly funded by the Nature Conservancy Council and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Summary

In 1982, the population of Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in Britain was surveyed and this provided an opportunity to document a range of nest-site features. Information was collected on type of site (cliff or tree), altitude, direction of exposure, distance to nearest public road, accessibility of the site to people, and extent of human disturbance. Variation in a number of these features was assessed along west-east climatic and ecological gradients across Scotland. Less than 5% of pairs used tree sites, and these were mainly towards the east of the range. Mean elevation of sites ranged from around 150 m in the west to over 450 m in the east. The majority of nests were orientated between NW and E, and the greatest percentage lay between N and NE. There was no significant relationship between the incidence of nesting failure and distance to public road; nests judged to be more accessible to people, however, failed more frequently than those in inaccessible sites. The incidence of disturbance attributable to people was highest in the eastern half of the range and generally coincided with moorland areas which were managed for Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*. Results are discussed with the benefit of comparable studies of nest-site features throughout Continental Europe.

References

BERGO, G. 1984. Habitat and nest-site features of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (L.) in Hordaland. *Fauna norv. Ser. C., Cinclus* 7: 109-113.

BROWN, L. H. 1969. Status and breeding success of Golden Eagles in northwest Sutherland in 1967. *Brit. Birds* 62: 345-363.

—— 1976. *British Birds of Prey*. London.

—— & WATSON, A. 1964. The Golden Eagle in relation to its food supply. *Ibis* 106: 78-100.

DENNIS, R. H., ELLIS, P. M., BROAD, R. A., & LANGSLOW, D. R. 1984. The status of the Golden Eagle in Britain. *Brit. Birds* 77: 592-607.

EVERETT, M. J. 1971. The Golden Eagle survey in Scotland in 1964-68. *Brit. Birds* 64: 49-56.

FASCE, P., & FASCE, L. 1984. *L'Aquila Reale in Italia: Ecologia e Conservazione.* Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli, Serie Scientifica, Parma.

—— & —— 1987. L'Aigle Royal en Italie. In MICHEL, S. (ed.), L'Aigle Royal en Europe. *Actes du Premier Colloque International, Arvieux*: 23-28.

FERNANDEZ, C. 1989. El Aguila Real (*Aquila chrysaetos* L.) en Navarra: Utilizacion del espacio, biologia de la reproduccion y ecologia trofica. Resumen de tesis doctoral, Universidad de Leon.

GLUTZ VON BLOTZHEIM, U. N., BAUER, K. M., & BEZZEL, E. 1971. *Handbuch der Vögel Mitteleuropas.* Band 4. Falconiformes. Frankfurt.

GORDON, S. 1955. *The Golden Eagle: king of birds.* London.

GRUBAC, B. R. 1988. The Golden Eagle in Southeastern Yugoslavia. *Larus* 38/39: 95-135.

HALLER, H. 1982. Raumorganisation und Dynamik einer Population des Steinadlers *Aquila chrysaetos* in den Zentralalpen. *Orn. Beob.* 79: 163-211.

HENNINGER, C., BANDERET, G., BLANC, A., & CANTIN, R. 1987. L'Aigle Royal dans une partie des Préalpes Suisses. In MICHEL, S. (ed.), L'Aigle Royal en Europe. *Actes du Premier Colloque International, Arvieux*: 54-58.

HEWSON, R. 1976. Grazing by Mountain Hares *Lepus timidus*, Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*, and Red Grouse *Lagopus l. scoticus* on heather moorland in NE Scotland. *J. Appl. Ecol.* 13: 657-666.

JENKINS, D., WATSON, A., & MILLER, G. R. 1963. Population studies on Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* (Lath.) in north-east Scotland. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 32: 317-376.

JORDANO, P. 1981. Relaciones interespecificas y coexistencia entre el Aguila Real (*Aquila chrysaetos*) y el Aguila Perdicera (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) en Sierra Morena central. *Ardeola* 28: 67-87.

MCVEAN, D. N., & LOCKIE, J. D. 1969. *Ecology and Land-use in Upland Scotland.* Edinburgh.

—— & RATCLIFFE, D. A. 1962. *Plant Communities of the Scottish Highlands.* Monograph of the Nature Conservancy No. 1, HMSO, London.

MAGRINI, M., RAGNI, B., & ARMENTANO, L. 1987. L'Aigle Royal dans la partie centrale des Appennins. In MICHEL, S. (ed.), L'Aigle Royal en Europe. *Actes du Premier Colloque International, Arvieux*: 29-32.

MATHIEU, R., & CHOISY, J. P. 1982. L'Aigle Royal *Aquila chrysaetos* dans les Alpes Méridionales françaises de 1964 à 1980. Essai sur la distribution, les effectifs, le régime alimentaire et la reproduction. *Bièvre* 4: 1-32.

MICHEV, T., PETROV, T., PROFIROV, L., YANKOV, P., & GAVRAILOV, S. 1989. [Distribution and nature-defensive status of the Golden Eagle in Bulgaria.] *Bull. Mus. S. Bulgaria* 25: 79-87.

MOSHER, J. A., & WHITE, C. M. 1976. Directional exposure of Golden Eagle nests. *Canadian Field-Nat.* 90: 356-359.

NETHERSOLE-THOMPSON, D., & WATSON, A. 1981. *The Cairngorms.* Perth.

RATCLIFFE, D. 1990. *Birdlife of Mountain and Upland.* Cambridge.

RSPB & NCC. 1991. *Death by Design: the persecution of birds of prey and owls in the UK 1979-89.* Sandy & Peterborough.

SAVORY, C. J. 1986. Utilisation of different ages of heather on three Scottish moors by Red Grouse, Mountain Hares, sheep and Red Deer. *Holarctic Ecology* 9: 65-71.

SEMINARA, S., GIARRATANA, S., & FAVARA, R. 1987. L'Aigle Royal en Sicilie, centrale des Appennins. In MICHEL, S. (ed.), L'Aigle Royal en Europe. *Actes du Premier Coll. Int., Arvieux*: 33-36.

TJERNBERG, M. 1983. Habitat and nest site features of Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos* (L.), in Sweden. *Swed. Wildl. Res.* 12: 131-163.

VOSKAR, J., MOSANSKY, A., & PALASTHY, J. 1969. Zur Bionomie und ökologischen Verbreitung des Steinadlers (*Aquila chrysaetos* L.) in der Ostslowakei. *Zoologicke Listy* 18: 39-54.

WATSON, A., PAYNE, S., & RAE, R. 1989. Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos:* land use and food in northeast Scotland. *Ibis* 131: 336-348.

WATSON, J. 1991. The Golden Eagle and pastoralism across Europe. In CURTIS, D., & BIGNALL, E. (eds.), *Proceedings of the Second Symposium on Birds and Pastoralism.* JNCC, Peterborough: 56-57.

——, LANGSLOW, D. R., & RAE, S. R. 1987. *The impact of land-use changes on Golden Eagles in the Scottish Highlands.* CSD Report No. 720, NCC, Peterborough.

ZASTROV, M. 1946. Om Kungsornens (*Aquila chrysaetos*) utbredning och biologi i Estland. *Vår Fågelvärld* 5: 64-80.

Dr J. Watson, Scottish Natural Heritage, 9 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AG, Scotland
R. H. Dennis, Inchdryne, Nethybridge, Inverness-shire PH25 3EF, Scotland

Seasonal reports

Winter 1991/92

Keith Allsopp and Barry Nightingale

Some unchecked reports are included, as well as authenticated records



The winter weather was unexceptional: average monthly temperatures were a little above the long-term means in all areas, and occasional harsh spells of icy conditions did not last very long. European temperatures were also above their averages. As a result, the wintering bird populations remained static after the late-autumn influxes.

Divers, grebes and wildfowl

A notable concentration of **Red-throated Divers** *Gavia stellata* was found in the northern part of Cardigan Bay (Gwynedd) on 20th November, when 407 were counted; subsequently, 390 were found farther south, at Borth (Dyfed) on 17th January. Groups of up to 500 were also found off the north Suffolk shore in early January. Only a few individuals were seen inland. Three **White-billed Divers** *G. adamsii* were seen from north Scottish islands and one other was seen from a cross-Channel ferry off Kent on 15th December. About 40 **Red-necked Grebes** *Podiceps grisegena* were reported across the southeastern half of England during November: mostly coastal with a few singles staying longer inland. A concentration off the Lothian coast—43 at Aberlady Bay on 16th November and 52 on 5th January—had dispersed by February. An immature **Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* at Loch Leven (Tayside), found on 2nd November, stayed into February (plate 194), and others appeared briefly in Bedfordshire on 28th November, Co. Wexford on 30th November and on the Isle of Man on 12th January. The developing pattern of **Little Egrets** *Egretta garzetta* wintering in the southwest of England continued. Their numbers increased from

194. Juvenile Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Vane Farm RSPB Reserve, Tayside, November 1991 (*S. M. D. Alexander*)



[*Brit. Birds* 85: 482-489, September 1992]

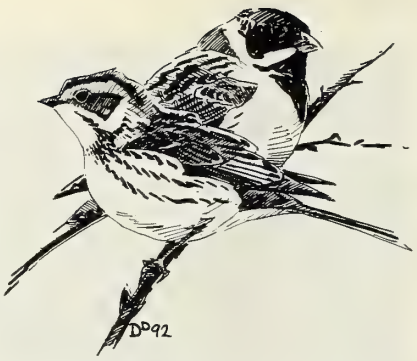
about 20 in November to over 40 in December, thereafter decreasing to 30, with a small dispersal to Wales and Ireland. The viability of this population group will be tested with the next bad winter. In contrast to the last species, **Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* were scarcer than in previous winters, with only four staying in the West Country. Groups of **Bewick's Swans** *Cygnus columbianus* are now well attached to their managed winter havens, with some small past wintering sites rarely visited. Numbers peaked at Welney (Cambridgeshire) with 4,641 on 13th January, at Martin Mere (Lancashire) with 848 in January and at Slimbridge (Gloucestershire) with 320 in February. Welney also attracted most **Whooper Swans** *C. cygnus*, with 778 on 26th February, and the Martin Mere flock peaked at 619, also in February. Numbers of **Pink-footed Geese** *Anser brachyrhynchus* in Lancashire were estimated at 41,000 by mid November, and 3,700 **White-fronted Geese** *A. albifrons* had collected at Slimbridge by January. The flock on Islay (Strathclyde) of the Greenland race was estimated at 10,000 in December. Two of the seven reports of **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *A. erythropus* were of marked individuals from re-introduction programmes in Scandinavia. Establishing a successful migration pattern for survival may prove very difficult for these gregarious birds. A **Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis* remained with the 12,000 **Barnacle Geese** *B. leucopsis* at Caerlaverock (Dumfries & Galloway) until March. An estimated 81,000 **Wigeons** *Anas penelope* on the Ribble Estuary (Lancashire) on 10th November was an impressive total, as was 9,500 **Pintails** *A. acuta* on the Dee Estuary (Clwyd) on 9th November. Up to eight **American Wigeons** *A. americana*, nine **Teals** *A. crecca* of the Nearctic race *carolinensis* and seven **Ring-necked Ducks** *Aythya collaris* were reported in each month, and three **Blue-winged Teals** *Anas discors* on the Tamar Lakes (Devon/Cornwall) in January was an unusual concentration. A feature of the winter was a noticeable increase in the numbers of **Long-tailed Ducks** *Clangula hyemalis* (plates 198 & 199) off the English and Welsh coasts and inland. Some 50 were scattered in the Southwest and 30 across the Southeast and Midlands, with a similar number inland in the Northwest. Off Criccieth, Cardigan Bay (Gwynedd), 45 were counted in December. These numbers steadily declined into the new year, a good proportion of the immatures at atypical inland sites probably dying. Flocks of **Common Scoters** *Melanitta nigra* were also commoner than usual: 5,500 were off the North Norfolk coast, 6,500 in Cardigan Bay off Gwynedd, and 1,900 off the north shore at Penmaenmawr. A spring return movement in March was witnessed at Dungeness (Kent) on 31st, involving 4,700 birds. Vagrants of the North American race *americana* were reported in December, one briefly on 11th at Dornoch (Highland) and another at St Brides Bay (Dyfed) on 26th, which stayed into March. **Velvet Scoters** *M. fusca* accompanied the Common Scoter flocks, with 200 off Norfolk in December and over 70 off Penmaenmawr, and several individuals staying inland. **Smews** *Mergus albellus* were found inland in quite good numbers, with 22 in Midland counties in January and 26 in the Southeast in February.

195. Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*, Uxbridge, Greater London, January 1992 (*Peter Gasson*)



vagrants included not only the expected **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* (*Brit. Birds* 85: 209), but also a **Pied Wheatear** *O. pleschanka* at Penare (Cornwall), a **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* at Easton Bavants (Suffolk) (plate 203), and three **Pallas's Warblers** *Phylloscopus proregulus* in early November. Of greater interest was a Pallas's Warbler at Bognor Regis (West Sussex) from 14th to 23rd March. A few **Yellow-browed Warblers** *P. inornatus* also survived into the winter, and one in Plymouth (Devon), with the characteristics of the race *humei*, remained into March. There was only one report of **Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*, from Dungeness on 30th and 31st January, the hoped-for establishment of a British population being dimmed. **Great Grey Shrikes** *Lanius excubitor* showed no change, with wintering numbers continuing to decline. The three **Nutcrackers** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* which had arrived in autumn stayed into early November, the Staffordshire individual being found dead. Even rarer was the **Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator* at Lerwick (Shetland) on 25th March (plates 201 & 205). A more usual species from northern climes, the **Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus* was present in unexceptional numbers, the largest flock being seen near Boston (Lincolnshire), with 100 on 22nd February. Three vagrant





Pine Buntings *Emberiza leucocephalos* enlivened the winter for many; one was in Orkney from 1st to 5th November, another at Cresswell (Northumberland) from 29th January to 24th February and the third at Dagenham Chase (Greater London) from 12th February to 16th March (plates 204 & 207). Four **Little Buntings** *E. pusilla* wintered in southwest England, a pattern which has been developing over the past few years.

Acknowledgments

This summary was compiled from contributions from: D. Bird, D. Broome, M. Dryden, J. Holloway, A. M. Jewels, I. Kinley, E. R. Meek, P. Murphy and M. Waller; and published information including that in the newsletters of the Bristol Ornithological Club, Buckinghamshire Bird Club, Derbyshire Ornithological Society, Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society, Fife Bird Club, La Société Guernesiaise, Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, Leigh Ornithological Society, London Natural History Society, Shetland Bird Club, Shropshire Ornithological Society, South East Scotland Bird Bulletin, Sussex Ornithological Society, West Midland Bird Club, Cape Clear Bird Observatory, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory and Whitburn Bird Observatory. We are especially grateful to Rare Bird News, which supplied copies of all the records reported to its phone service, and to Birding South West.

OPPOSITE

198 & 199. Long-tailed Ducks *Clangula hyemalis*: top, Crosby Marina, Merseyside, November 1991; centre, Shotwick, Clwyd, January 1992 (*Steve Young*)

200. Bottom, Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, East Sussex, January 1992 (*Terry Button*)

CENTRE SPREAD

201 & 205. Top left and top right, Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*, Lerwick, Shetland, April 1992 (*Jack Levene*)

202. Left-hand page, centre left, Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, Neston, Cheshire, March 1992 (*Steve Young*)

203. Left-hand page, centre right, Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*, Easton Bavants, Suffolk, November 1991 (*Jack Levene*)

204 & 207. Bottom left and bottom right, Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*, Chase Nature Reserve, Dagenham, Greater London, February 1992 (*left, David M. Cottridge/Avian Photos; right, Jack Levene*)

206. Right-hand page, centre, Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*, Norfolk, December 1991 (*Jack Levene*)

The inclusion of plates 198-210 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *CARL ZEISS - GERMANY*















The Best Buys and the Brightest...



RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 1989. Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

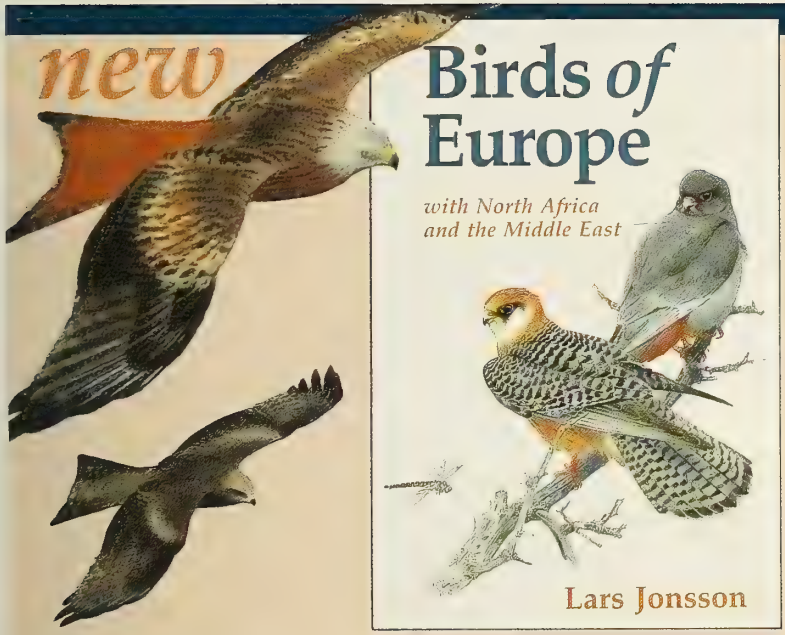
Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

(D145)



Our 1993 brochure is now available, write to Sunbird, P.O. Box 76, Sandy, Beds SG19 1DF for your copy today!

(D175)



Originally published in five volumes, *Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* covers all but a few of the Western Palearctic's breeding birds, and includes information on all the regularly encountered vagrants. This guide has over 400 illustrations including 140 completely new plates, up-to-date colour maps and a fully revised text. With species accounts, distribution maps and illustrations on facing pages, it is practically designed and easy to use.

Lars Jonsson's depiction of plumage, movement and character is unparalleled. He is internationally recognised as one of the finest wildlife artists of our times. For most birdwatchers, his work represents the very best in bird illustration with its combination of accuracy and artistic bravura.

190 × 130mm 560pp 400 colour plates plus maps laminated boards
0-7136-8096-2 September **£25.00**

Available through bookshops or in case of difficulty contact:

HELM

Christopher Helm – A&C Black,
PO Box 19, Huntingdon,
Cambs PE19 3SF
tel: (0480) 212666 fax: (0480) 405014



THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Carl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved a world wide reputation for excellence.

In their latest Binocular Survey, the readers of the universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ENGLAND
BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street; Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technic (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd Brighton; Hanmington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photography, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Son, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS
GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND
CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND
ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Fr
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports
Plus all branches of LONDON CAME EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the cou

If you require further information at Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write t Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd Binocular Division, Dept/BB, P O Bo Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden Cit Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

ZEISS
Germany
Carl Zeiss
(D961)









CARL ZEISS – GERMANY sponsors the Rarities Committee, and subsidises by donations the inclusion of many of the colour photographs published in *British Birds*

208-210. Pallas's Warblers *Phylloscopus proregulus*: left, Weybourne, Norfolk, October 1989 (*K. B. Shepherd*); below left, Marsden Hall, Tyne & Wear, October 1990 (*Mike K. Watson*); below right, Flamborough, Humberside, October 1985 (*Graham P. Catley*)





Identification pitfalls and assessment problems

This series, which started in January 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28), is not intended to cover all facets of the identification of the species concerned, but only the major sources of error likely to mislead the observer in the field or the person attempting to assess the written evidence. The species concerned are mostly those which were formerly judged by the Rarities Committee*, but which are now the responsibility of county and regional recorders and records committees.

13 Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Pallas's Warbler is, for most people, the epitome of a rare bird: a long-distance migrant, breeding no closer to Britain than 5,600 km away in central Siberia, only the size of a Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, a mass of stripes of yellow and green, and hyperactive into the bargain. Although it has occurred in increasing numbers since 1967, it is still a rare bird, averaging 39 individuals a year during 1981-1990, with most records on the British east and south coasts in October and November. Prior to 1958, there were only three records in Britain and Ireland, and it maintained this true-vagrant status until 1968, which saw the first of what has since become a series of autumn influxes, with 18 in 1968, 13 in 1974, 30 in 1975, 33 in 1981 and then the amazing total of 127 in 1982. A total of 540 has been accepted for the years 1958-1990, with 72% in the last ten years, including 59 in 1987 and 64 in 1988. Pallas's Warbler was dropped from the Rarities Committee's list after 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 411-412). The recent trend towards increasing numbers has been mirrored in Scandinavia, the Baltic countries and north-European coastal countries.

All British and Irish records so far have been between 23rd September and 28th December, peaking during October to mid November. Interestingly, all the December records, four in number, have been since 1986, and future wintering, perhaps followed by spring records, is a distinct possibility†. As with many eastern species, the early-autumn records are mostly in the northeast and the very late ones are usually on the south coast from Kent to Scilly. In general terms, it is a later migrant than the Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus*, but there is a full overlap of dates, and arrivals in October, especially, often coincide.

The principal confusion species in Britain are the Yellow-browed Warbler and, to a lesser extent, the Firecrest *R. ignicapillus*. If seen well—and the species often does give extended good views—Pallas's Warbler is not difficult to identify; indeed, once the clear-cut pale-yellow rump-patch is seen, then a small Goldcrest-sized *Phylloscopus* warbler in the Western Palearctic is almost certainly a Pallas's Warbler. Confusion with Yellow-browed and Firecrest can occur, however, in brief views or difficult viewing conditions, especially when

*This paper, like those earlier in the series (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28, 78-80, 129-130, 203-206, 304-305, 342-346; 77: 412-415; 78: 97-102; 81: 126-134; 84: 145-148; 85: 21-24, 437-439), is a publication of the Rarities Committee, which is sponsored by *CARL ZEISS—Germany*.

†Since this was written, one has occurred in spring 1992, in West Sussex in March (*Brit. Birds* 85: 262, 486).

the bird is feeding high in dense canopy such as coastal sycamores *Acer pseudoplatanus* in the late autumn.

Pallas's Warbler and Firecrest are similar in size and proportions, both being large-headed and short-tailed, brightly coloured and highly active. Pallas's has a deep-yellow, very prominent supercilium, a broad but short deep-yellow greater-coverts bar, and a pale-yellow central crown stripe with dark olive-green lateral crown stripes. Firecrest has an obvious, white supercilium which bridges the forehead (where it is buffish-orange), a white greater-coverts bar, and a yellow or orange central crown stripe bordered with black lateral crown stripes. Pallas's is relatively uniform whitish to off-white below, sometimes with a grey wash on the breast sides, whereas Firecrest has obvious bright bronze patches on the sides of the upper breast and an obvious short black moustachial streak. Firecrest of course also lacks the yellow rump of Pallas's Warbler.

Compared with Yellow-browed Warbler of the nominate race, Pallas's Warbler has similar coloration, but the general appearance is usually brighter, with olive, green, yellow and white predominating. Both species show two pale wing bars, the upper on the tips of the median coverts being shorter and narrower than that on the tips of the greater coverts, and sometimes rudimentary, particularly on a worn Yellow-browed; pale creamy-yellow tips and edges to the tertials, bright olive-green upperparts, darker olive remiges and rectrices with brighter greenish-yellow outer webs to the secondaries, forming brighter wing panels; whitish underparts sullied with pale yellow or greyish on the neck sides and throat; clear, broad, striking, long supercilia, underlined by dark eye-stripes; a small, fine bill; and restless, very active behaviour.

A principal difference is the pale-yellow, even whitish-yellow, rump of Pallas's Warbler: a striking feature when seen well, being clear-cut, sharply defined and square across the lower back to the uppertail-coverts. It is, however, often hidden by the wings, and is most obvious when the bird hovers whilst feeding, a common habit, or when flying away, or when the wings are flicked open while feeding, another regular habit with small *Phylloscopus* warblers. Yellow-browed may show a diffusely edged, paler, greenish rump, but never anything approaching the brilliance of that of Pallas's. Pallas's also shows a clearly marked yellow central crown stripe bordered by dark-olive lateral crown stripes; the prominence of the central crown stripe varies with posture and among individuals, but is usually obvious, narrow at the front and broadening towards the nape, and is often most clearly seen from behind. Many Yellow-browed Warblers also show a paler central crown line, which is, however, very narrow, rarely clean-cut and only paler yellowish-green; it does not contrast so strongly with the green lateral crown stripes, which are paler than those on Pallas's. Some individuals show this feature quite well, but it is never so contrasting and obvious as on Pallas's.

The supercilia on Pallas's are deep, often turning up slightly over the eye, long, reaching nearly to the nape and turning up or down at the rear depending on posture. They are deep, bright yellow, whereas those of Yellow-browed are generally paler yellow to whitish, not so thick, but equally as long as Pallas's. Owing to the large-headed, neckless appearance of Pallas's, however, and the generally slicker, more elongated profile of Yellow-browed, the super-

cilia may look quite different shapes. The whole head of Pallas's is more contrasting, with darker and brighter areas than on Yellow-browed.

In general appearance, Pallas's is more dumpy-looking and squat, being more bull-necked, larger-headed, and shorter-tailed, and with more contrasts throughout the plumage than Yellow-browed. The legs of Yellow-browed tend to be quite bright yellow or orange-tinged, compared with the dull grey of those of Pallas's, but the latter can have yellowish feet, and the former can have duller legs.

Both species are usually hyperactive: constantly on the move, flicking wings and tail, and sometimes difficult to follow through foliage and especially when in the canopy of trees. Pallas's has a very obvious habit of hovering, Goldcrest-like, at the ends of branches to pick insects from beneath leaves.

Both species will feed in whatever cover is available on migration, from ground level to the upper canopy of large trees, but there is a general tendency for Pallas's to feed lower down in scrub such as hawthorn *Crataegus* and even in ditches and rough grass, willow-herb *Epilobium* and nettles *Urtica*, whereas, given the choice, Yellow-browed Warblers tend to feed in willows *Salix* and the canopy of taller trees, mainly sycamores. Yellow-browed Warblers have, however, been noted on occasion to feed persistently on the ground (*Brit. Birds* 83: 428-429).

Calls, once known, are an easy way of separating the three species. That of Yellow-browed of the nominate race is very distinctive and loud, somewhat similar to that of a Coal Tit *Parus ater*. It is monosyllabic, thin, with emphasis on the latter part, which has an upward inflection. It is usually transcribed with a central 'eee' sound and ends emphatically with a 't' or 'st' sound:

'weest', 'sweeet', zzweet', 'weeest', 'swee-ee' or 'szweeet'.

They often call repeatedly, especially if there are a number of individuals in the same area, and the call is a very easy way of locating them in dense canopy. The call of the nominate race of Pallas's Warbler is very different: usually weak and high-pitched, but sometimes quite loud, again monosyllabic, and of a similar length to the call of Yellow-browed, but on a more even pitch. It is less far-carrying, does not 'grab the attention' like that of Yellow-browed, and is sometimes likened to that of Chiffchaff *P. collybita*. The call is usually transcribed with more of an 'eeee' sound in the middle and less of a definite clipped finish:

'seeep', 'sweeep' or 'seeit'.

Southern races of Pallas's Warbler have calls (and song) quite dissimilar to those of the nominate race. Firecrest's call is very distinctive, being monosyllabic, short and clipped, but often with notes run together in sequence:

'sit', 'zit' or 'zit-zit-zit'.

Pallas's Warbler is one of a number of Far-Eastern *Phylloscopus* warblers, several of which possess a slightly lighter to clearly contrasting yellow rump-patch. Of these, to judge from the distribution and movements of each, only Pallas's and Yellow-browed Warblers are likely to occur in the Western Palearctic. For detailed information on the other species, readers are recommended to read Kenneth Williamson's *Identification for Ringers 2—The Genus Phylloscopus*, a BTO guide.

For Western Palearctic completeness only, and not because confusion with Pallas's Warbler is a problem, brief mention should be made of the southwest-

ern race of Yellow-browed Warbler, *P. i. humei*, which is considered by some to be a full species. It has been claimed in Britain on some 13 occasions, all in late autumn and often in association with Pallas's Warbler occurrences. Compared with the nominate race of Yellow-browed, it is generally more drab, greyish-tinged on the upperparts, with the median-coverts bar restricted or absent, with less-striking supercilia lacking yellow, dirty-white underparts which rarely show any yellow, and, usually, an all-dark bill. It is similar in size and structure to the nominate race, except that its bill is often noticeably shorter and finer. The call is rather different, however, being more disyllabic and with a downward inflection on the last syllable, transcribed:

'tissyip', 'te tweeup', 'chiliup', 'zwee-eist', 'sweelon', 'tsulu' or 'psee-up'.

Although this final paragraph will undoubtedly be read with astonishment by clued-in observers, it is nevertheless a fact that Siskin *Carduelis spinus* is occasionally mistaken for Pallas's Warbler. On paper at least, a non-adult male Siskin may seem superficially similar to Pallas's, being small, green above, and white or whitish below, with a yellow supercilium, double yellow wing-bars, cleanly edged and clearly tipped tertials, and a yellow rump. Records-vetting committees, therefore, need more than this sort of brief description to accept a record of Pallas's Warbler. First of all, it is vital for identification as a warbler, rather than a finch, to be established, with bill-shape and tail-shape important factors to look for. The most important distinguishing plumage characters are Pallas's Warbler's lack of streaking above and below and lack of yellow bases to the outer tail-feathers (though these, being negative characters, have limited value in written descriptions), and presence of central crown-stripe, supercilia and rump-patch, particularly with respect to their shape and clean-cut nature.

G. P. CATLEY

13 West Acridge, Barton-on-Humber, North Lincolnshire DN18 5AJ

Seventy-five years ago...

'CORRECT PRONUNCIATION OF CHOUGH AND POCHARD. To the Editors of *British Birds*. Sirs, I think I am correct in stating that the generally accepted pronunciation of the word Chough is like the word rough. The other day, however, when talking to a Cornishman, he spoke of the Choughs, pronouncing the word in the same way as plough. On reflection, it seems to me that this may be the original and correct pronunciation since, as is the case in the names of many of our British birds, the name would then be onomatopœic.

'As regards the word Pochard, I have heard competent ornithologists pronounce the first syllable as in pock, in poke, in poach and as in potch; a definite ruling as to the correct pronunciation of this word would be welcome. HUGH S. GLADSTONE' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 96, September 1917).

Notes



Wildfowl eating potatoes In recent years, on the Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire, Whooper *Cygnus cygnus* and Bewick's Swans *C. columbianus* have taken to feeding on arable land, harvested potato fields, with their residue of waste potatoes, being particularly favoured in early winter. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Welney has attracted a substantial number of wildfowl in front of its hides by the strategic tipping of waste potatoes. Other species have utilised this food source, most notably Mute Swan *C. olor*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Tufted Duck *A. fuligula* and Coot *Fulica atra*, while two small parties of Scaups *Aythya marila* also fed by diving for potatoes in deeper water and bringing pieces to the surface to swallow. Coots often carry off a potato to a quiet spot to consume it, whereas the *Aythya* ducks feed on potatoes only in water. Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Pintail *A. acuta*, Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* and Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* have also been recorded eating this food.

During flooding, when the swans are unable to reach the potatoes in the deep water, some Whoopers spend their time among the Pochards, waiting for them to dive and bring up potatoes, whereupon the swans chase after them with their necks outstretched; this causes the Pochards to dive, generally dropping the food when doing so. Whooper Swans similarly parasitise Tufted Ducks and Coots.

Of all these species, *BWP* (vol. 1) mentions potatoes in the diet of only four: Whooper and Bewick's Swans, Greylag Goose and Mallard.

J. B. Kemp
2 Northfield Farm, Hundred Foot Bank, Pymore, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2EL

Black Kite feeding on House Sparrows During the late afternoon of 19th March 1988, at Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt, Black Kites *Milvus migrans* were drifting past in ones and twos towards a roost. One individual paused to quarter an area of semi-cultivated land fringed with scrub and a line of trees, flapping and gliding in typical Black Kite fashion about 10 m above the ground. It was seen to capture and eat three House Sparrows *Passer domesticus*, the first two in a little under five minutes and the third five minutes later. In each case, the sequence was the same: a neat, almost vertical stoop, with wings partly closed, and a capture at or very close to the ground (the actual point of impact was obscured by bushes); the kite then rose and circled the area in a leisurely way, plucking and eating the sparrow in flight before returning for the next attempt. It was not possible to see whether the sparrows were adults or juveniles, but they were certainly taken alive. There were a great many of them in this area, both feeding and moving around in flocks, and it was interesting that none of them, not even those where the kite was hunting, took any notice of any of the Black Kites that were present; in fact, in my experience, most small passerines appear to ignore Black Kites and seldom show the mob-

bing or panic reactions exhibited towards other raptors. Black Kites are well known as highly versatile predators and scavengers; the literature describes their foraging and feeding habits in some detail and lists small birds (often, apparently, young or incapacitated individuals) among their live prey, but little is stated about active hunting techniques or catching and feeding rates.

M. J. Everett
c/o RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

Talon-locking between Kestrel and Red-footed Falcon S. J. Hayhow's note (*Brit. Birds* 81: 324) recalled the following. On 2nd June 1976, at Old Hall Marshes, Essex, I observed two raptors sparring together. After a short time, they locked talons and tumbled together into the reeds. When they emerged, I saw that they were a Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and a first-summer male Red-footed Falcon *F. vespertinus*. The latter flew to a point nearer to where I was standing, and there were no further encounters. Two other Kestrels were also in the vicinity.

M. Coath
77 Oakhill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1NU

Red-footed Falcon robbing Kestrels Notes on food piracy by Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (*Brit. Birds* 70: 220; 80: 283; 83: 548) prompt us to record the following. In May 1978, in Hampshire, we spent four hours watching a male Red-footed Falcon at a site where a pair of Kestrels *F. tinnunculus* was feeding young in a nearby Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*. On two occasions, a Kestrel, as it carried prey back to the nest, was chased and forced to drop the prey by the Red-footed Falcon, which then retrieved the food.

M. C. Combridge and P. Combridge
44 Ethelred Gardens, Totton, Southampton SO4 3UA

Talon-locking between Merlin and Peregrine The note on talon-locking between Hobby *Falco subbuteo* and Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* (*Brit. Birds* 81: 324) prompts me to record the following. On 6th March 1988, at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, I watched a male Merlin *F. columbarius* repeatedly dive at a Peregrine *F. peregrinus* which was perched on the ground. After the Merlin had made approximately ten dives, the Peregrine rose about 0.75 m on the former's next approach and then perched again. After a further four dives, the Peregrine took off and flew higher. The Merlin gave chase, and, as it rapidly approached the Peregrine, the latter rolled upside-down with talons facing skywards. The two then made contact (I could not determine which one 'grabbed' the other), and I could clearly see that they had interlocked talons as they fell towards the ground; at a height of approximately 8 m, they separated and flew in different directions.

Michael S. Wallen
25 Commonside, Downley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP13 5XG

Merlins hunting at sea Between 23rd February and 20th April 1988, at Dungeness, Kent, a total of 34 Merlins *Falco columbarius* was seen coming in off the sea. On six occasions, the individuals involved were seen to chase and catch passerines before making landfall, and on a further five they were seen to be carrying prey; one unsuccessful chase was observed. On other occasions, the Merlins coming in were not seen well enough to determine whether they were carrying prey, but in many cases it was suspected that they were. On each of the days when this behaviour was observed, visible migration was poor or non-existent, and at times the only passerines seen to come in were in the talons of Merlins. At Dungeness, Merlins have been seen on previous occasions coming in off the sea. In my opinion, and also that of other observers, they are not, however, migrating in, but are individuals from the locally wintering population that have gone out to sea to hunt: an interesting behaviour for a basically land-based predator. Only twice during the period mentioned above were Merlins seen going out.

I thank Barry Banson, S. P. Clancy, D. L. Davenport, Seán McMinn and Ray Turley for commenting on this note.

NIGEL ODIN
Landguard Bird Observatory, Viewpoint Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 8TW

Dr Ian Newton has commented that there is, of course, no 'cover' at sea for passerines or other birds. EDS

Aggression of Hobby towards other raptors On 6th July 1986, in Leicestershire, I located the nest of a Hobby *Falco subbuteo* in one of a pair of oak trees *Quercus* near a clump of maples *Acer*. The male flew in with prey, calling, and perched in the oak adjacent to the nest tree, where he was joined by the female off the nest. Almost immediately, a male Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* flew to perch in the nest tree. The female Hobby, calling, flew to perch next to the Kestrel and forced him into flight; both Hobbies, the male still clutching the prey, mobbed him until he left the area. The Hobbies then flew back to the oak tree, from where I could hear a lot of calling. Eventually, the male perched prominently in the open, and later the female returned to the nest. The male Hobby then flew to the northeast to perch in an elm *Ulmus*. Soon, the Kestrel returned, flying to the west, and the male Hobby was straight out in pursuit of him; the two briefly locked talons, and the Kestrel was chased off to the southwest. The male Hobby returned to the elm.

This observation contrasts with notes I made at a Hobby's nest, also in Leicestershire, in 1982. On that occasion, the Hobbies were quite tolerant of other birds near their nest, ignoring Jays *Garrulus glandarius* and Magpies *Pica pica* and occasionally briefly mobbing Carrion Crows *Corvus corone*, particularly when the latter approached too close to the nest; of the two other raptor species regularly present in the area, Kestrels were largely ignored, but, in sharp contrast, Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* were viciously mobbed at every opportunity.

DAVE GAMBLE
2 Shanklin Gardens, Leicester Forest East, Leicester LE3 3JR

Peregrines nesting beside Kestrels on urban chimney In February-March 1989, a pair of Peregrines *Falco peregrinus* arrived in Darwen, Lancashire, choosing a nest site almost at the top of the 93-m-tall India Mill chimney (which was still in use). The chimney is about 550 m from the centre of Darwen and less than 50 m from the busy A666; the site is entirely urban, the mill itself being surrounded by other industrial units, houses and a school. The Peregrines chose the south-facing ledge of the chimney, even though a pair of Kestrels *F. tinnunculus* was already in residence on the east-facing ledge (the two nests were probably only about 3.5 m apart). While the female Peregrine was incubating, the male Kestrel regularly sat immediately outside her nest, causing her much distress, but she never managed to dislodge him. On the evening when the oldest Kestrel chick took its first flight, the male Peregrine launched from his roosting place at the top of the chimney and attacked the young Kestrel, which escaped uninjured. During the particularly hot spring of that year, the presumably inexperienced Peregrines left their nest in order to take shelter on the north-facing side of the chimney, thus leaving the nest contents fully exposed to the heat of the sun. Jim McElroy saw two tiny Peregrine chicks on 22nd June, but these were never seen again and presumably died when just a few days old.

In 1990 and 1991, the Peregrines moved around to the north-facing ledge and successfully fledged four young in each year. In both years, the Kestrels moved only a very short distance away, but did not nest on the chimney itself.

MAVIS B. SMITH
47 Baron Street, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 1NP

Dr Ian Newton has commented: 'The fact that the Peregrines nested on a chimney is more interesting than the fact that Kestrels earlier used the site. I know plenty of cliff sites where Kestrels nested during the low Peregrine years, only to be ousted when Peregrines returned.' EDS

Ringed Plovers nesting in covered sites During 1987, on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 18 nests of Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* were located, of which seven were in unusual covered sites. In one case, the nest was protected merely by the overhang of a large stone; another was in a recess at the base of a dry-stone wall; while the remaining five were all beneath stones or boulders near the shore. The most extreme site was about 150 cm under a flat slab, with a clearance of less than 75 mm at the entrance. All the nest scrapes were on sand. Covered sites fared better than those in the open. Only three of the 11 uncovered nests successfully hatched young, compared with five of the seven covered nests. One pair hatched two broods from covered sites, although none of the other 24 pairs on the island achieved this. Of the two failed covered nests, one was deserted and the other, at the base of the wall, was engulfed by sand.

Covered sites must provide added protection against predation, particularly from birds, but on North Ronaldsay it is perhaps the sheep that are the main danger to nests. Sheep on the island are restricted to the shore, and there is heavy trampling pressure, especially on the softer substrates preferred by the plovers. In addition, these sheep have been

recorded eating Ringed Plover eggs (by Ken Walker, in Mary Scott's *Island Saga*), and are suspected of taking the eggs of a number of species. Their unusual diet of seaweed presumably requires various mineral supplements: tideline bird corpses invariably have their feet chewed off by sheep (cf. also *Brit. Birds* 85: 313).

The only references I have found to Ringed Plovers using covered sites other than among growing vegetation are a note on a nest under the overhang of a dune (*Brit. Birds* 70: 500-501, plate 140) and mention of this species' occasional use of sites beneath stones in Orkney (Booth *et al.*, 1984, *The Birds of Orkney*).

M. G. PENNINGTON
9 Daisy Park, Baltasound, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9EA

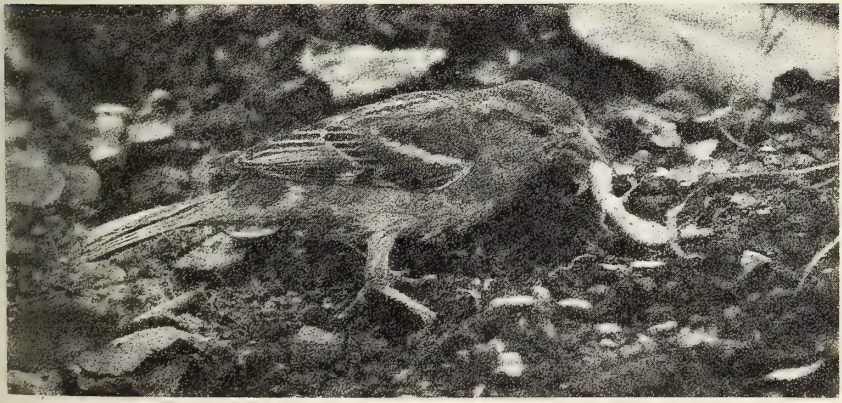
Dr M. A. Ogilvie has commented that, on Islay, Strathclyde, he has found Ringed Plover nests under slight overhangs of boulders, and once under a sewage pipe 1ft (30 cm) in diameter, but none as covered as those described by Mr Pennington, and suggests that site selection on North Ronaldsay may perhaps be a reaction to the strong winds and rain typical of exposed islands as well as to the local sheep problems. EDS

Spanish Sparrow eating lizard On 14th May 1987, in the Funchal Botanic Gardens, Madeira, my attention was drawn to a disturbance in the nearby undergrowth. A female Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* had seized and decapitated a small Madeiran lizard *Lacerta dugesi*, and was devouring parts which it had snipped from the neck and body. This continued for some minutes, until the bird was disturbed by passers-by and flew off.

Several insectivorous passerines have been observed taking small reptiles, mice and shrews, and many seed-eaters switch to invertebrate prey while rearing young. House Sparrows *P. domesticus* frequently pursue large moths and have been recorded eating frogs (Summers-Smith, 1988, *The Sparrows*).

B. ZONFRILLO
28 Brodie Road, Glasgow G21 3SB

211. Female Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* feeding on Madeiran lizard *Lacerta dugesi*, Madeira, May 1987 (*B. Zonfrillo*)



Letter

Eastern vagrants in Britain in autumn 1988 The paper by Norman Elkins (*Brit. Birds* 84: 402-404) was most helpful in explaining the meteorological conditions leading to the massive falls of Continental migrants on the British east coast in October 1988, but I remain unconvinced as to the southerly route supposedly taken by the eastern vagrants.

During 12th-23rd October, I spent seven days ringing and watching on the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR (*Lincs. Bird Rep.* 1988: 2-4, 8-10). At Theddlethorpe, rain from the occluded front mentioned by Elkins started to fall at 21.30 GMT on 11th October, with a gale-force southeasterly wind. By 04.00 on 12th, the wind had eased down to around force 4, with overcast and low cloud remaining; half an hour later the sky was totally clear, and the wind had dropped further and moved more southerly. Many thrushes *Turdus* were arriving in the dark, dropping down on to the dunes, or passing on inland, and this large movement continued throughout the morning. We also ringed many Robins *Erithacus rubecula* and Goldcrests *Regulus regulus*, as well as a variety of other migrant passerines, including a Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* and a Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*. A further large arrival on 16th October included a Radde's Warbler *P. schwarzi* (two more Radde's and one Pallas's Warbler *P. proregulus* were recorded between Norfolk and Humberside).

Elkins stated that the 'first fall began on 12th in northeastern England . . . associated with an occlusion moving north over the North Sea and eastern Britain, with the arrivals on its northern side.' He calculated a required flight-time for the eastern vagrants of 30 hours from the Crimea. Why would the arrivals be on the northern side of the front if they were 'non-oriented migrants dispersing downwind'? Surely, if they flew into the rear edge of the front from the southeast (as must have been the case under Elkins's hypothesis), they would have dropped as soon as they reached land? But how likely is it that they were flying downwind? Without wishing to re-enter the Lack-Williamson arguments of the 1960s, I think it can be agreed generally that birds flying for 30 hours, largely over hospitable land and under clear skies, would not just drift downwind. A more plausible explanation is that the eastern vagrants recorded on 12th October were drifted west or southwest to the British east coast, after leaving the northern Continental North Sea coastline; once into the leading edge of the cloud front and rain, they may well have flown downwind until they reached land. Before then, their direction was likely to have been the resultant between their heading (probably southerly rather than northerly) and the wind.

Elkins claimed that few eastern vagrants were recorded from the Scandinavian region. 'European news' (*Brit. Birds* 82: 349-355), however, shows that eight eastern species were recorded from northern European countries shortly before 12th October, and there appear to have been good numbers of a wide variety of Siberian species in Latvia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Germany, the Netherlands and France during the first three weeks of October. It is worth noting that 11 Yellow-browed Warblers were

recorded in Lincolnshire before 12th October (*Lincs. Bird Rep.* 1988: 70). The 'multiple arrivals' in southeast Europe, used by Elkins to support his theory, apparently consisted of four (unconfirmed) Eye-browed Thrushes *Turdus obscurus* in Hungary on 27th October, and four Pine Buntings *Emberiza leucocephalos* in Yugoslavia on 12th and 13th November 1988.

Large falls of other passerines coincided with the arrival of the eastern vagrants. Six Goldcrests, ringed between 28th September and 16th October (three in Denmark and one each in Finland, Estonia and Norway), were recovered between 20th and 26th October, all on the East Coast. There were two recoveries of Finnish-ringed Robins, one in Yorkshire on 17th October (ringed 11th October) and another in Sussex on 21st October. Several extremely unusual recoveries during 16th-23rd October, mainly on the East Coast, included a Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* from Denmark and Reed Buntings *E. schoeniclus* from Denmark and from Sweden (*Ringing and Migr.* 10: 159-196). These recoveries, and their timing, do not support the suggestion of a southerly route for the eastern vagrants.

Elkins suggested that most vagrants are 'birds of the year . . . on non-oriented exploration movements'. October arrival, however, would seem too late in the year for this explanation to be valid. First-year birds of such species as Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* undoubtedly reach our shores on post-juvenile wanderings, but from breeding areas that are much closer, and considerably earlier in the year. It seems more likely that genetic variation in migratory orientation may play some part. Dr Peter Berthold and his co-workers in Germany have recently shown that there can be considerable genetic variation in migratory behaviour within bird populations, which allows rapid evolution in response to changing conditions. For example, Yellow-browed Warblers have wintered in Britain and in France, and we may be seeing the start of a regular migratory pattern, as has developed for some central European Blackcaps *S. atricapilla* and Chiffchaffs *P. collybita* which now winter regularly in Britain.

Weather conditions are undoubtedly an important aspect influencing the arrival of Siberian vagrants in Britain, and I accept the link between arrival numbers and the intensity of anticyclones over Central Asia. I do not, however, consider that the route proposed by Elkins is necessarily that which was taken. There seems little evidence (other than meteorological) to support such a southerly route, and considerably more to suggest arrival on the British east coast from a more easterly or northeasterly direction.

MIKE BODDY
51 Welham Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 6TW

Norman Elkins has replied as follows: 'While preparing my paper, I guessed that some controversy would arise, and for that reason I was, as always, careful (perhaps not careful enough) to emphasise that there are inherent difficulties in assessing the "route" of vagrants. My purpose was to investigate, in a meteorological context, the route taken by Central Asian vagrants arriving in Britain in 1988. It transpired that, owing to dissimilar large-scale weather patterns over Eurasia in the Octobers of 1982 and 1988, the route appeared to differ markedly from those suggested by Howey & Bell for 1982 (*Brit. Birds* 78: 381-392), in turn resulting in the paucity of these vagrants in Scandinavia in 1988 compared with 1982.

'Mike Boddy claims that there were a number of records from that region in 1988. In my long-term research into eastern vagrants, I have used a group of 13 passerines whose breeding grounds are in Central Asia (i.e. to the southeast, often well to the southeast, of the Urals). These are: Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*, Siberian Blue Robin *L. cyane*, White's *Zoothera dauma*, Dusky

Turdus naumanni, Black-throated *T. ruficollis* and Eye-browed Thrushes; Pallas's Grasshopper *Locustella certhiola*, Pallas's, Radde's and Dusky Warblers *P. fuscatus*; and Pine, Yellow-browed *E. chrysophrys* and Pallas's Reed Buntings *E. pallasi*. In practice, the *Phylloscopus* warblers (particularly Pallas's) far outnumber all the rest during falls in northern Europe. I do not include Yellow-browed Warbler in my list, as it has a much wider range and more northerly breeding limit, and cannot be called a true Central Asian species. "European news" listed the number of individuals of the above species as five during 3rd-9th October and two during 22nd-24th October; the only reports of Pallas's Warblers were three (undated), in Denmark. These ten records compare with over 100 in 1982, while Finland and Sweden recorded over 90 Pallas's Warblers in autumn 1982.

'Although both Octobers showed a strong southeasterly wind anomaly over the North Sea (i.e. southeast winds were more frequent than normal), the situation farther east (north of 55° N) was very different. East of 20° E, October 1982 showed an easterly anomaly, but in 1988 a W-NW anomaly prevailed east of 30° E, which was even stronger farther east again. This prompted me to suggest that the routes implicated by Howey & Bell for 1982 could not have been used in 1988.

'I accept that the route I proposed may not necessarily be the "correct" one, and I may have given the impression that no other could be possible. Boddy comments on my statement that the first fall began on 12th, with the arrivals on the occlusion's northern side. This perhaps should have been qualified by the adjective "first" (arrivals), as subsequent records must have been south of the front as it moved away northwards to clear Britain the following night. Many migrants do fly through fronts without going to ground, particularly where the front is weak (e.g. well away from the depression centre—in this case nearer the high pressure over the Continent). My notes tell me that the cloud tops over the North Sea along the front were around 3,000 m, not unduly deep for an occlusion. My calculations of flight-time were based, as I stated, on the assumption that the birds flew non-stop. This was to highlight the possibility of a movement within the fine southeasterly windflow that prevailed over eastern Europe for a considerable period from 11th. Scandinavia, on the other hand, particularly north of 60° N, had been beset by a series of fronts crossing the region in strong SW-W airstreams prior to 11th, although a ridge of high pressure did exist across Denmark and the southern Baltic for a time up to 4th, perhaps the mechanism by which more northerly breeders turned up earlier in the month.

'I realise, of course, that a variety of migrants from Scandinavia and Siberia arrived with the Central Asian birds, but then Nearctic vagrants can also arrive at a similar time and place to those from the opposite direction: it does not necessarily mean that they share the same origin or track. As it happens, the final leg of the movement of Central Asian birds in the second wave after 20th could have been over southern Scandinavia, as the high pressure was also situated farther north by then. It does not, however, alter the basic tenet of my paper regarding the difference in route from that of 1982, and one would have expected the Danes to have turned up a few more vagrants if this had been the case. As regards "non-oriented" movement, I have become aware of Berthold's work since I wrote my paper, and also of Thomas Alerstam's suggestion (*Experientia* 46: 405-415) that magnetic anomalies may be involved in the consistent misorientation (in fine weather with tail winds) of Central Asian migrants, so perhaps I stand corrected.

'I welcome the opportunity to set my own views straight, and confess that my arguments may have not been set out as well as they could have been, and also that I did not stress the meteorological differences between the two autumns. I do not have access to literature from the former Soviet republics, and I wonder if there is any reference to the frequency of records away from the Baltic states? It would be fascinating to discover the whereabouts of these birds between early September, when they have apparently left their breeding grounds, and mid October, when they arrive in North Europe.' EDS

Announcements

'BB' goes owling A special *BB*-SUNBIRD trip to Finland in search of owls has been arranged for 9th-18th May 1993, led by Finnish raptor expert Dick Forsman and Killian Mullarney. In the south, we expect to find Eagle *Bubo bubo*, Pygmy *Glaucidium passerinum*, Ural *Strix uralensis* and Tengmalm's *Aegolius funereus*, while farther north, in Lapland, we shall seek Hawk *Surnia ulula* and Great Grey *Strix nebulosa*, as well as Siberian Tit *Parus cinctus*, Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus*, Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* and breeding waders. *BB* subscribers are entitled to claim a 10% discount. For full details, contact Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF, phone Sandy (0767) 682969.

Binders The British Birds Binder, into which 12 issues and the index can be inserted, is temporarily unavailable. An announcement concerning new-style binders will be made shortly.

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Mundy, Butchart, Ledger & Piper *Vultures of Africa*
*Snow *Birds, Discovery and Conservation: 100 years of the British Ornithologists' Club*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xi & xii.

Request

Rare breeding birds Observers with information on rare breeding birds in Britain are requested to send full details *now* to the relevant county bird recorder (or to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel's Secretary, Robert Spencer, Iredale Place Cottage, Loweswater, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0SU). Please do not wait until the end of the year.

Mystery photographs



212. Mystery photograph 181. Identify the species. Answer next month

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Extra protection for Minsmere and Walberswick The extensive wetlands and other habitats at Minsmere and Walberswick, Suffolk, have been declared a Special Protection Area, with the boundaries of the existing Ramsar site extended to include an additional 306 ha, increasing the area now protected to 2,003 ha. This extra protection should reduce to a minimum any threats that might affect the integrity of this spectacular area. It is still regarded by many as the best birdwatching site in the country—but the real beneficiaries of this action will be the breeding and wintering birds which rely on the area, as well as other rare animals and plants.

New Honorary Subscriber It is a pleasure to announce that Robert Spencer's name has been added to those of the select band of ornithologists who are Honorary Subscribers to *British Birds* (I. J. Ferguson-Lees, P. A. D. Hollom, E. M. Nicholson, Major R. F. Ruttledge, Dr P. O. Swanberg and D. I. M. Wallace).

Long-serving BTO staff member, as Ringing Officer and Deputy Director, Bob then, on his retirement, became Secretary to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, of which he had previously been an ordinary member. He is still County Recorder for Cumbria, and an expert author/compiler/editor, with his services being eagerly utilised by a variety of ornithological clubs, societies and publishers. Bob's contribution to British and European ornithology is such that we are proud to add him to our list of Honorary Subscribers. EDS

White Storks via satellite Professor Dr Peter Berthold has sent us a copy of his paper detailing a pilot study of satellite tracking of White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* during autumn (*J. Orn.* 133: 155-163). This is in response to our note about similar studies to be carried out by French scientists (*Brit. Birds* 85: 258). Peter and his colleagues carried out their experiments in 1991, when four birds were fitted with transmitters in eastern Germany and tracked via the ARGOS system. Three birds followed the eastern migration route and were tracked from 610 up to 4,700 km—the latter reaching the borders of Egypt and Sudan. The bird which headed west towards the Pyrénées was followed for 1,400 km. Two of the birds migrated more or less continuously (to Sudan and the Pyrénées), but the other two rested for longer periods. The storks covered up to 370 km in a day, and the average for one individual was 224 km/day for 21 days. Speed of migration varied between 30 and 90 km/hour. It is hoped that future studies with improved transmitters will allow greater detail to be gathered over longer periods.

Morocco with 'BB' Under the expert guidance of Bryan Bland and Peter Lansdown, the *BB*/SUNBIRD trip to Morocco during April 1992 was very enjoyable and a great success. We saw such Moroccan specialities as Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*, Double-spurred Francolin *Francolinus bicalcaratus*, Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*, Plain Swift *Apus unicolor*, Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*, Thick-billed Lark *Rhamphocoris clotbey*, Tristram's Warbler *Sylvia deserticola*, Black-headed Bush Shrike *Tchagra senegala* and Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex*, but the 12 participants (plate 213) voted the superb daytime views of Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius* the highlight of the trip. (*EMS*)

'Birding' Identification of juvenile Le Conte's Sparrows *Ammodramus leconteii*, studies of Tengmalm's (Boreal) Owl *Aegolius funereus*, finding the Short-crested Coquette *Lophornis brachylopha* in Mexico, more on the standardisation of English bird names, identification of Black-throated Diver (Arctic Loon) *Gavia arctica*, mystery photograph quizzes (and one disputed identification), reviews, views and news. That's what's in the latest issue (April 1992) of the American Birding Association's journal, *Birding* (vol. 24, no. 2).

Membership of the ABA costs $37.00 or £20.00; or you can get a sample copy for $3.50 or £2.00 (the ABA accepts sterling cheques). Write to ABA, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, USA.

Another silly Mrs O. Drake has sent us a cutting from the *Exeter Express and Echo* dated 4th May 1992 which reports the rare sighting of a 'march marrier' in the fields of Exminster marshes. It no doubt engaged a lot of attention.



213. 'BB'-SUNBIRD trip to Morocco, Middle Atlas, April 1992. Back, left to right, John Clark, Bruce Carrick, Tony Summers, Jenny Baker, Juliet Bloss, Alan Shaw, Kathy Williams, Midge Clark, Herb Williams; front, left to right, Erika Sharrock, Bryan Bland (leader, and creator of the snowbird), Andrew Drake, Peter Lansdown (leader) and Peter Thompson (*John Clark*)

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by

SUNBIRD

June's bathing bird (plate 132) was named as a greater variety of species than any previous photograph in this series:

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*	(63%)
Hoopoe *Upupa epops*	(6%)
Citrine Wagtail *M. citreola*	(4%)

with other votes for Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Red-breasted Goose *B. ruficollis*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pintail *A. acuta*, Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*, Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, Grey Phalarope *P. fulicarius*, Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*, Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, and a further 15 species with just one vote each.

Clearly, either it was 'obvious' what the bird was, or it was almost totally confusing. The most-named species was the right answer: this Pied Wagtail was photographed in Germany in May 1991 by Axel Halley.

None of the leading runners stumbled at this hurdle, leaving all seven (closely followed by one other) sprinting neck and neck towards the prize of a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday in Africa, Asia or North America. Perhaps July's wader (plate 145) or August's plummeting bird (plate 181) will have sorted out the winner.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



214. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-sixth stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 75). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th October 1992

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 18th July to 14th August 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* Old Head of Kinsale (Co. Cork), 4th August.
Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* Good numbers off the southwest coast of England during first half of August, including 641 off Porthgwarra (Cornwall) on 11th.
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Cley/Blakeney (Norfolk), from at least 6th-8th August; River Thames at East Tilbury (Essex), 10th to at least 13th August.
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* Probably first-summer, Strand Lough (Co. Down), 2nd to at least 13th August.
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Bowling Green Marsh, Topsham (Devon), 29th July to 2nd August; North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 2nd August.
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* Cley, 2nd to at least 3rd August.
Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Pitsford Reservoir (Northamptonshire), 10th-12th August.
Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* Titchwell (Norfolk), 21st July; Camelford (Cornwall), 2nd August.
Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* Spurn (Humberside), 28th July; 12, Bridges of Ross (Co. Clare), 3rd August.
Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* Flamborough Head (Humberside), 19th-21st July.
Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* Lerwick (Shetland), 24th July to 2nd August.
Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Fair Isle (Shetland), 12th August.
Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Near Didcot (Oxfordshire), 18th-21st July.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111
(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)
We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.



Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.

Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins). £14.99 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion). Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser). £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm). £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50). Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP). £24.95 ☐
Brucker, Gosler & Heryet *The Birds of Oxfordshire* (Nat. Cons. Bureau). £27.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser). £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐
*del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx) (DUE THIS MONTH)
PREPUBLICATION OFFER (normal price £95.00). £73.00 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond). Paperback £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐
ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm). Paperback £25.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser). £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton). Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm). £27.99 ☐
*Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press) vol. 1 £68.00 ☐ vol. 2 £68.00 ☐ vol. 3 £68.00 ☐
vol. 4 SPECIAL OFFER PRICE THIS MONTH ONLY (FULL PRICE £85.00). £72.00 ☐

ALL CHRISTOPHER HELM (PUBLISHERS) BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE POST FREE THROUGH BRITISH BIRDSHOP THIS MONTH ONLY

Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser). £17.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser). £17.50 ☐
Guest & Hutcheson *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire* (Helm) Paperback £10.99 ☐
Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic Press) (DUE AUTUMN) £65.00 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan). £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983. £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986. £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00). £10.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser). £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press). Hardback £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World). £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP). £19.95 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987. £22.50 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP). £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet). £35.00 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £20.00 ☐
LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm). Paperback £12.99 ☐
Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988. £24.99 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xii to complete your order.

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

*Mundy, Butchart, Ledger & Piper *Vultures of Africa* (Academic Press) £49.50 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm) Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (BRITISH BIRDS) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £16.50 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐

ALL CHRISTOPHER HELM (PUBLISHERS) BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE POST FREE THROUGH BRITISH BIRDSHOP THIS MONTH ONLY

Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
*Snow *Birds, Discovery and Conservation: 100 years of the BOC* (Helm Information) £19.95 ☐
Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Trodd & Kramer *The Birds of Bedfordshire* (Castlemead) £18.95 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic*. If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) Currently out of stock. Announcement shortly.
Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING SEPTEMBER 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro ac no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £..... Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**



(D172)

Bird Watch
in the United Arab Emirates

31st March - 10th April, 1993

Join our birdwatching adventure and discover the amazing selection of birds to be found at this migratory crossroads in the Middle East. With a landscape hardly explored by naturalists, our tour covers all of the country's top sites which offer excellent birdwatching opportunities. Possible sightings include the Great Black-Headed Gull, Pale Rock Sparrow, White-Throated Robin, Hume's Wheatear, Long-Billed Pipit and Purple Sunbird to name but a very few.

Colin Richardson, ornithologist and author of 'Birds of the United Arab Emirates' will be your expert guide throughout.

Other tours visit the Falkland Islands, Brazil, the Galapagos Islands, Kenya and Alaska.

For further details call us today on (0732) 741612 or write to Animal Watch, Manama House, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3TL quoting reference BB1.

(D180) **ABTA 90172**

FOCALPOINT FIELDSHOWS

The binocular and telescope specialists
THE way to try and buy (10.30am–4pm)

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
MARTIN MERE, Burscough, Lancs (M6, Jct 27).
Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th September
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October

CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE
Sunday 13th September
Westholme, Hazler Road
(in association with MERLIN outdoor clothing)

SHEFFIELD R.S.P.B. MEMBERS GROUP,
Botanical Gardens, Clarkes House Road,
Sheffield S10 2LN.
Saturday 3rd October & Sunday 4th October

All are welcome at these events. They are staffed by experienced birders who will help you choose. Information packs and appointments on request – let us know your specific requirements.

MAJOR ART EVENT AT MARTIN MERE 18th Sept – 18th Oct inclusive



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT

Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 Fax: 0606-892207 (D177)

BIMONTHLY JOURNAL ON FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

DUTCH BIRDING



- Excellent papers on identification, distribution, occurrence, movements and behaviour of Palearctic birds
- Regular contributions on Asian-Pacific birds
- Latest news on rare and interesting birds in the Netherlands and the Western Palearctic
- Well produced with numerous high quality colour photographs
- Yearly report on rare birds in the Netherlands
- In English or with extensive English summaries

For information or a free sample issue, write to:
Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands

Subscribers to Dutch Birding can claim 25% off a British Birds subscription

(D147)



NOS OISEAUX

The Swiss ornithological journal appears four times a year (approximately 250 pages) and publishes articles and reports in French, with abstracts in German and English covering the central European avifauna, particular emphasis is placed on original contributions.

Annual subscription: 33 Swiss Francs

A free copy may be obtained by writing to the following address:

Administration,
Nos Oiseaux
Case Postale 54
CH 1197 PRANGINS
(Switzerland)

(D132)

For great birding...

Sunbirder
Birding package holidays

...the only way to go!

CAPE MAY	20 SEPT-3 OCT FROM	£990	Leaders: Paul Holt and Bob Behrstock
EILAT	1-8/15 NOV FROM	£465	Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke
BHARATPUR	19-28 JAN FROM	£1050	Leader: Paul Holt
EILAT	7-14/21 MARCH FROM	£475	Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke

Details from Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. Tel: 0767-682969.
(Please specify which event you are interested in).

(D174)

RARE BIRDS IN BRITAIN 1991

An authoritative and highly informative report containing detailed records for over 150 species of scarce migrants and vagrants that occurred in Britain during 1991. Not only is every individual record included for each species, but there are also many additional distribution maps and graphs to evaluate certain species status, by far the most comprehensive report available.

Amongst its 128 pages of detailed information, it analyses some 15,000 records of rare and scarce migrant birds to Britain, enabling readers to see, for example, exactly how many Wrynecks and Barred Warblers were sighted in 1991, information not generally available.

ORDER FORM

Please send me copy/ies of Rare Birds in Britain 1991 @ £7.95 per copy (inclusive of p&p). Limited number of 1990 reports still available at special price of £4.95 whilst stocks last.

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £
(Made payable to Lee Evans Enterprises).

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Send your order with payment to:
8 Sandycroft Road, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6QL.

(D179)



PAY LESS FOR

RARE BIRD NEWS

0881 888 111

FAST RELIABLE 24 HOUR NEWS

UP TO 30% CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER BIRDLINE

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS

0426 923 923

CALLS COST 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES

BIRDING SOUTH WEST

0891 884 500

RARITY, MIGRANT AND SEA-WATCHING NEWS. HOTLINE **0426 923 923**

ALL 0891 CALLS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE 48p/MIN PEAK/STD

(D181)

THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

invites readers of ***British Birds*** *into our membership. If you join the only North American association of and for birders, you will receive* ***Birding****, our bi-monthly magazine which gives active field birders the expertise they seek, and* ***Winging It****, a lively monthly newsletter with the latest happenings and rarities. Many ABA birdwatchers are available to advise or guide visitors to their local areas. These members are listed in our Membership Directory.*

Annual Dues: US$ 37.00 or £20.00. Sterling checks acceptable.

For sample copies, send US$3.50 or £2.00 to:

American Birding Association

PO Box 6599 Colorado Springs, CO 80934 USA (D963)

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(These prices do not include VAT)
£2.50 a line—average of 6 words
£8.50 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions less 10%
6 insertions less 15%
12 insertions less 20%

Copy Date
October issue
September 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm *and* HarperCollins — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Clev 5 miles. Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390



(BB963)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB237)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB213)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB235)

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey, Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB171)

ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB208)

ISLES OF SCILLY. Self catering units for 2/5. Linen, towels, TV included. Well furnished & equipped. Guest House accommodation also available. All rooms en suite, colour TV, tea/coffee making facilities. Conveniently situated. D. Williams, The Bylet Guest House, St Mary's, Isle of Scilly. Tel: 0720 22479. (BB224)

GARA MILL, Slapton, Devon. Self-catering for 2-7 in secluded four acres overlooking river and woods. Eight detached cedar lodges, plus 2 CH flats in 16th c. cornmill. Near Slapton Ley. TVs. Dogs welcome. Free brochure: (0803) 770295. (BB236)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB243)

SCOTLAND

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB183)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches. Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

ABERNETHY & CAIRNGORM — up to Deluxe 5 crowns, 1993 brochure from Strathspey Self Catering, Grant Road, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3LA. Tel: 0479 2939. (BB232)

SOUTH UIST
Luxury self-catering in twitcher's paradise from £100pw. Two newly built bungalows sleeping six each. Tel: 08784 494. (BB240)

WALES

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest house standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB248)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB238)

ANGLESEY. Superb waterside position with magnificent views. Ideal centre for bird watchers and botanist in area of outstanding natural beauty. Elegant en suite rooms available for bed and breakfast. Highground, Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Gwynedd LL65 2YY. Tel: (0407) 860078. (BB205)

WEST WALES smallholding. BB/EM or self cater in our cosy cottage for 2/4 or luxury 6 berth caravan. Ideal for Pembs Islands, National Park Tregaron, WTB approved. Tel: 0239 831265 (BB209)

OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA, CAIRNS, JULATTEN. At Kingfisher Park we provide accommodation and camping facilities in a rainforest sanctuary for native birds and animals. We are central to a variety of habitats and cater for the interests and enthusiasms of birdwatchers and naturalists. Write now for a free birdlist to Kingfisher Park, P.O. Box 3, Julatten, Queensland, Australia 4871. (BB221)

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB229)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA. The diversity of habitats makes Gipsy Point an ideal place to begin your Australian holiday, with over 100 species likely to be seen during a relaxing four day stay. Regular pelagic bird trips. Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891 Australia. (BB897)

THE GAMBIA: paradise for birdwatchers. Basic, clean accom. in prime forest/shore area, transport and packed meals, extended trips with Mass Cham, foremost Gambian ornithologist. Interested – please call Gee Cross Travel. 061-368 7005. Eve: 061-367 8335. (BB206)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May — variety of accommodation — trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB228)

WILDWINGS
The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers
DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide
Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£145
CARIBBEAN	£319
C. & S. AMERICA	£399
AFRICA	£99
N. AMERICA	£215
ASIA	£280
AUS/NZ	£499

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS
ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2850 pp. Brochure & Video available.
Ask for leaflet detailing our services.
0272-259999 21 PENN ST, BRISTOL BS1 3AU MON-FRI
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757
ABTA 65077
(BB231)

'HIGH ISLAND'
UPPER TEXAS COAST U.S.A.
Just opened. Bed and breakfast for groups of 4 or 8. 'Birder's Haven, P.O. 309, High Island, Texas 77623. Tel: 409 286 5362 or 214 824 5390. (BB242)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237
100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS
'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES - WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
SPECIALIST ADVISER - ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)
ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB204)

NEW FOR 1993
A New Concept in Budget Birding Holidays
FULLY-ESCORTED WEEKS FOR
UNDER FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS!
52 We are now able to offer self-catering options to a 'new' and exciting area of Southeastern Spain at bargain prices.
★ Wetlands, Mountains, Coasts — excellent, varied lists.
★ Experienced English leader.
★ Quality accommodation, with choice of self-catering or very reasonable meals.
★ Small, relaxed groups.
★ Varied and flexible birding arrangements.
★ Several departures.
Write for details: Calandra Holiday, P.O. Box 89, Ashford, Kent TN24 9TE, or call 0233 628547.
***Also fully-inclusive tours** — options available — details on request.*
(BB245)

NEW ZEALAND

For the best of NZ birding, write Nature Quest New Zealand, Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand for custom departures or details of self drive consultancy.
Tel & Fax: (03) 489 8444

(BB031)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1008 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

AUSTRALIA — Send for our Birding brochure. Tours throughout Australia from individuals to groups. We welcome enquiries from both private customers and tour agents. Falcon Tours, 1 Simmons Drive, Roleystone, Perth, Western Australia. PH/FAX (09) 397 5125. Lic. Tour Operator.
(BB871)

ABROLHOS ISLANDS BIRDWATCHING TOUR, Western Austr dia — December. Also available small personalised tours in Natural History/Flora & Fauna for individuals and groups. For brochure contact — Coate's Wildlife Tours, PO Box 150, North Beach, Perth, Western Australia 6020. PH (09) 4476016, FAX (09) 2461995. (BB246)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRD INFORMATION

The BEST service

RARE BIRD ALERT
BIRD PAGERS

PROVEN, RELIABLE, QUALITY SERVICE
relax with a Rare Bird Alert Pager. For details
Call 0800 246 246
or call Dick Filby on 0603 767799
NEW! Economic Numeric Pagers as well

BIRDWATCHING ADVICE LINE

'PLANNING A BIRDWATCHING TRIP ABROAD'

Thomas Cook Travel

OFFER YOU A TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS LINE:
02572 62317

Ask for Keith Hiller experienced Birdwatcher.
Details available include: * Worldwide Airfares * Car Hire * Package Holidays * Ferries * Overseas Rail * Visas * Health * Accommodation * Cruises * Foreign Money * Individuals or groups catered for.
ABTA number 29600 (BB117)

BIRD REPORT

WILTSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1990, £3.75 inc. p&p from N. Pleass, 22 Ferrers Drive, Swindon, Wilts SN5 6HJ.
(BB194)

ORKNEY BIRD REPORT 1991 available from Vishabreck, Evie, Orkney. £2.85 inc p&p. (BB200)

BIRDS IN CORNWALL 1991 now available. £5 (inc. postage) from Stanley Christophers, 'Bramblings', Rachels Way, St Columb Major, Cornwall TR9 6EP. (BB222)

NEW EXPANDED 76-page Lindisfarne's Birds now available. History, seasons, migration, research, 293 species detailed. £3.65p inc. p & p from NTBC, West Farm, Kirkheaton, Northumberland NE19 2DQ. (BB234)

BOOKS

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers
where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407

(BB230)

BIRD BOOKS: Out-of-print, uncommon and rare. Quarterly catalogue. Peacock Books, Box 2024, Littleton, Mass. 01460, USA. (BB239)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel: 0433 630137. (BB247)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £6.45 inclusive p/p to:
Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP (BB223)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3JP (Tel: 09315-282). (BB066)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB151)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request
Tel: 0352 770881
Fax: 0352 771890

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS
SUBBUTEO
NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd, North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

SEYCHELLES. A Birdwatchers' Guide to Seychelles by Skerrett & Bullock. £8.75. Prion Ltd (Perry). From bookshops or N.H.B.S. Tel: (0803) 865913. (BB201)

BIRD & NAT. HIST. BOOKS. Regular catalogues. SAE to Mrs A. Gipps, 1 Woodside Cottages, Westwell Lane, Ashford, Kent TN 26 1JB. (BB218)

SHROPSHIRE BREEDING ATLAS. Based upon fieldwork 1985-1991. Maps plus text and illustrations for 129 species. Chapters on habitats, populations, fieldwork. 204 pages. £9.95 + £1 p&p from Shropshire O.S., 6 St Annes Road, Collegefields, SHREWSBURY, SY3 6AU (BB196)

FOR SALE

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845

(BB164)

BIRD JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB144)

B.B. for sale 1960-1966 incl. Bound brown cloth. Offers. Phone 0442 253994. (BB202)

PODSTRAP — the 2" wide black webbing shoulder strap only £8.50 inc. p&p from : Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT (sae for details). (BB203)

ZEISS West Dialyt 7 x 42 BGAT*P, 20 months old, boxed, mint condition. £495. Tel: 0789 841211. (BB233)

KOWA TS602, 27 x WA lens, tripod and strap, absolutely mint, virtually unused, complete original packaging, £275. Tel: (0829) 782485. (BB244)

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes.
Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6.
Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002

(BB145)

WANTED

BIRDS OF THE WESTERN PALEARCTIC SET. In good condition. Telephone: 04535 8795 in Germany. (BB249)

WALKERS

Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods – SLRs – compacts

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * OPTOLYTH * ADLERBLICK**

SEPTEMBER SALE WHILE STOCKS LAST

	RRP					
PENTAX 9 x 63	£349	**£250**	LEITZ 7 x 42	£689	**£599**	**KOWA** 15% DISCOUNT
HABICHT 10 x 50	£533	**£300**	LEITZ 8 x 42	£649	**£599**	**SWIFT** 15% DISCOUNT
ZEISS 10 x 40	£639	**£589**	LEITZ 10 x 42	£649	**£599**	**ADLERBLICK**
ZEISS 7 x 42	£639	**£589**	BeLOMB 8 x 42	£629	**£575**	10% DISCOUNT
			RUSSIAN 20 x 60	STILL	**£59**	**PENTA** 10% DISCOUNT

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

(D178)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 9 September 1992

469 **Nest-site selection by Golden Eagles in Scotland** *Dr J. Watson and R. H. Dennis*

482 **Seasonal reports Winter 1991/92** *Keith Allsopp and Barry Nightingale*

491 **Identification pitfalls and assessment problems** *13* Pallas's Warbler *G. P. Catley*

494 Seventy-five years ago . . .

Notes

495 Wildfowl eating potatoes *J. B. Kemp*
495 Black Kite feeding on House Sparrows *M. J. Everett*
496 Talon-locking between Kestrel and Red-footed Falcon *M. Coath*
496 Red-footed Falcon robbing Kestrels *M. C. Combridge and P. Combridge*
496 Talon-locking between Merlin and Peregrine *Michael S. Wallen*
497 Merlins hunting at sea *Nigel Odin*
497 Aggression of Hobby towards other raptors *Dave Gamble*
498 Peregrines nesting beside Kestrels on urban chimney *Mrs Mavis B. Smith*
498 Ringed Plovers nesting in covered sites *M. G. Pennington*
499 Spanish Sparrow eating lizard *B. Zonfrillo*

Letter

500 Eastern vagrants in Britain in autumn 1988 *Mike Boddy*

Announcements

503 'BB' goes owling
503 Binders
503 Books in British BirdShop

Request

503 Rare breeding birds

503 **Mystery photographs** *181*

504 **News and comment** *Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett*

505 **Monthly marathon**

506 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Line-drawings: 469 Golden Eagle (*Keith Brockie*); 482 Long-eared Owls (*Dan Powell*); 484 Laughing Gull (*Alan Harris*); 485 Shore Lark (*Dan Powell*); 486 Desert Wheatear (*Phil Jones*), Little Bunting and Reed Bunting (*Dan Powell*)

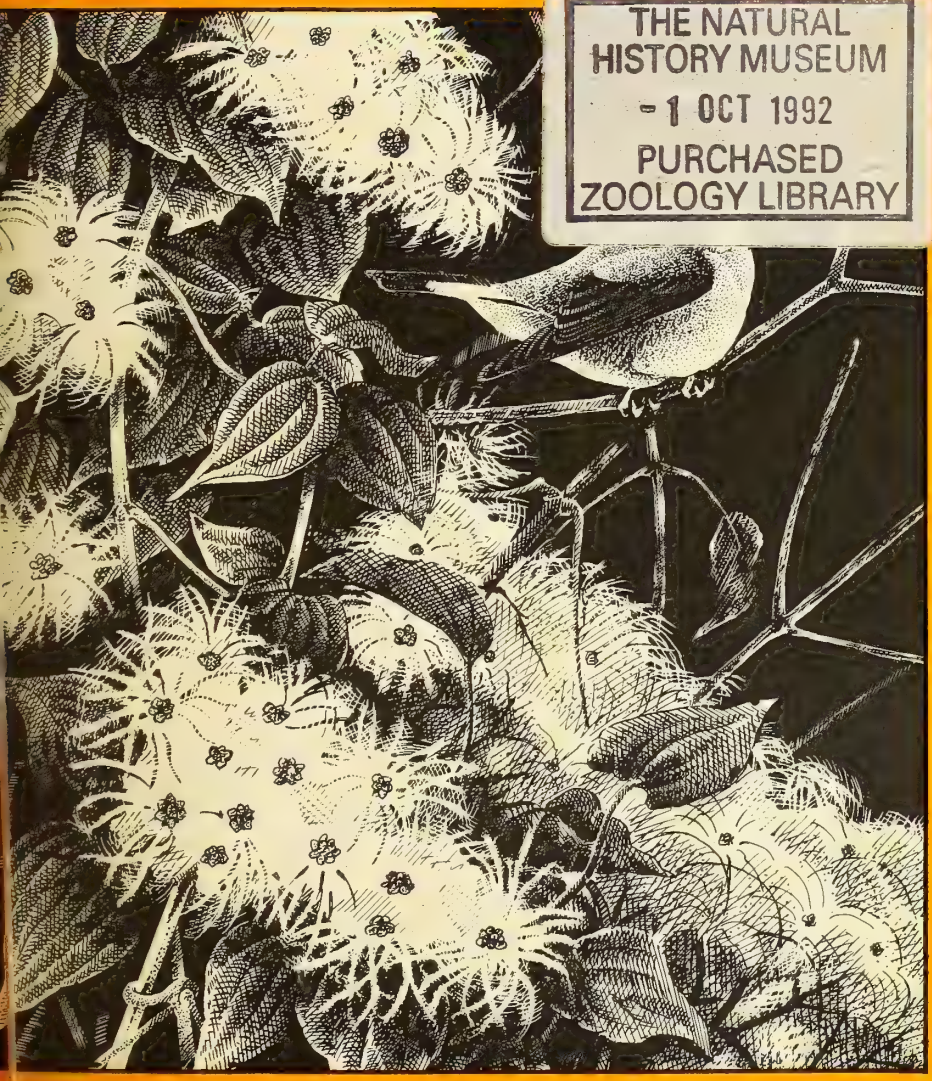
Front cover: Wheatear (*Antony S. Disley*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

25 12

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 10 October 1992

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
- 1 OCT 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY



Rare birds in Great Britain in 1991

ZEISS
Sponsored by
Germany

Mystery photographs • Notes • Letters
ICBP news • Reviews • News and comment
Monthly marathon • Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, R. A. Hume, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £45.80, IR£53.50 or $86.50. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £37.20, IR£43.60 or $70.00; personal airmail outside Europe £62.50, IR£72.95 or $118.00. Single back copies £4.75, IR£5.50 or $9.00.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984): names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

-1 OCT 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

204 HIGH STREET, BARNET, HERTS. EN5 5SZ
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 081 449 1445
Phone 081 441 7748
Fax 081 440 9999
HOW TO FIND US (Barnet)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

MAIN STREET, TITCHWELL, NORFOLK PE31 8BB
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 0485 210101
HOW TO FIND US (Norfolk)
We are 500 yards east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car parking

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR

RSPB (WWT) EGLETON NATURE RESERVE RUTLAND WATER LRTNC

Fri 4th, Sat 5th, Sun 6th September

FORTHCOMING FIELD EVENTS

We are pleased to offer our customers the best viewing facilities around the UK at RSPB, WWT and County Trusts' Reserves. Demonstrations are usually from hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10 am - 4 pm. For your convenience we advise appointments for the two days which can be arranged by contacting either shop.

RSPB DUNGENESS KENT
Sat 29th & Sun 30th August

CLEY VISITOR CENTRE NORFOLK
Sat 29th, Sun 30th & Mon 31st August
Tue 1st September
Tue 6th October

WWT SLIMBRIDGE GLOUCESTERSHIRE
From Sat 12th to Fri 25th September
Sat 10th & Sun 11th October

FRAMPTON MARSH BOSTON LINCOLNSHIRE
Sun 13th September

FISHERS GREEN LEA VALLEY ESSEX
Sun 13th September
Sun 11th October

SWILLINGTON INGS LEEDS, YORKSHIRE
Sat 19th & Sun 20th September

FINGRINGHOE COLCHESTER ESSEX
Sun 20th September

RSPB LODMOOR WEYMOUTH DORSET
Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

WWT LLANELLI GLAMORGAN STH WALES
Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

POTTERIC CARR DONCASTER YORKSHIRE
Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October

NORTHUMBRIAN BIRDWATCHERS FESTIVAL DRURIDGE BAY
Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October

LACKFORD RESERVE BURY ST. EDMONDS SUFFOLK
Sat 10th & Sun 11th October

ADUR WATER ACTIVITY CENTRE SHOREHAM WEST SUSSEX
Sat 17th & Sun 18th October

IN FOCUS PLEDGES THAT IF ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED HERE ARE ADVERTISED ELSEWHERE AT A LOWER PRICE WE WILL NOT ONLY MATCH THAT PRICE WITHOUT HESITATION BUT ALSO INCLUDE FOR ALL OUR MAIL AND TELEPHONE ORDER CUSTOMERS AN IN FOCUS BLUE RIBAND CARE PLAN WORTH £15 FREE OF CHARGE.

BAUSCH & LOMB

	£
Elite 7x36BGAP	599.00
Elite 8x42BGAP	659.00
Elite 10x42BGAP	659.00
Custom 8x36B	229.00
Custom 10x40BGA	249.00
Legacy 8x24	89.00
Elite 22x60BGA	309.00
Elite15x45x60BGAP	369.00
Elite 77 Body	365.00
Elite 77ED Body	775.00
20xWA	149.00
30x	135.00
20-60xZoom	198.00
Case	33.95
Photo Adapter	159.00

LEICA

	£
Trinovid 8x20BC	199.00
Trinovid 10x25BC	239.00
Trinovid 8x20BCA	239.00
Trinovid 10x25BCA	255.00
Case for Mini	16.00
Trinovid 7x42BA	649.00
Trinovid 8x42BA	649.00
Trinovid 10x42BA	649.00

CARL ZEISS

	£
Designer 8x20BT*P	295.00
Designer 10x25BT*P	319.00
Classic 8x20BP	249.00
Classic 10x25BP	269.00
Dialyt 8x20BGAP	315.00
Dialyt 8x30BGATP	529.00
Dialyt 7x42BGATP	639.00
Dialyt 10x40BGATP	639.00
Dialyt 10x40BT	689.00
Dialyt 8x56BGAT	769.00
15x60 Porro GAT	1190.00
20x60 S	2850.00
Rainguard	8.00
Eye Cups	16.00
Lanyard	5.00
Wide Lanyard	15.00

NIKON

	£
7x20CF III	65.00
9x25CF III	89.00
10x25CF III	109.00
8x32BGA	379.00
10X42BGA	399.00
8x40DCF	539.00
8x30E	229.00
10x35E	249.00
Fieldscope II	
20x60	304.00
20x-45x60	379.00
Fieldscope EDII	
20x60	555.00
20x-45x60	629.00

15x/20x/30x/40x	75.00
60x	85.00
20x-45x Zoom	147.00
Hoya MC Filter	20.00
Rubber lens Hood	10.00
Photo Kit	168.00
Stay-on Case	45.00
Spotting Scope	
20x60GA	199.00
15x45x60GA	265.00
20x	34.95
15-45x Zoom	100.00

SWIFT

	£
Trilyte 8x42BGA	148.00
Trylite 10x42BGA	150.00
Audubon HR5 8.5x44	239.00
Viewmaster 60 Body	149.00
15x-45x Zoom	49.00
20x	20.00
Case	15.00

QUESTAR

	£
Field Model 3 - 3" Broad Band Coating. Supplied with 50x-80x Hood. Case	2200.00
30x-50x	130.00
80x-130x	130.00
Erector Prism	289.00

OPTOLYTH

	£
Alpin 8x30BGA	227.00
Alpin 8x40BGA	246.00
Alpin 10x40BGA	249.00
Alpin 10X50BGA	268.00
Touring 8x32BGA	395.00
Touring 7x42BGA	445.00
Touring 10x40BGA	445.00
TBS HD Body	645.00
TBG HD Body	645.00
TBS 80 Body	390.00
TBG 80 Body	390.00
20xWW	122.00
30xWA	77.00
30xWW (new)	135.00
40xWA (new)	77.00
22x-60xZoom	159.00
Stay on Case for TBS/TBG	45.00

KOWA

	£
TS-601 Body	219.00
TS-602 Body	199.00
20xWA	64.00
25x	54.00
27xW	94.00
20x-60xZoom	109.00
Case	22.95
TSN-1 Body	316.00
TSN-2 Body	316.00
TSN-3 Body	636.00
TSN-4 Body	636.00
20x-60x Zoom	169.00
20xWA	109.00
25x	69.00
30xWA	139.00
40x	69.00
60x	119.00
77x	109.00
Skua Case	39.95
Rear Dust Dome	15.00
27xWA (Screwfit)	59.00
Screw Bay Adaptor	20.00
Case for TSN	24.95
Photo Adapt 800mm	129.00
Photo Adapt i200mm	199.00

OPTICRON

	£
Vega II 8x30	49.95
Vega II 8x40	54.95
Diaptron 8x32	119.00
Diaptron 8x42	122.00
Diaptron 10x42	125.00
Diaptron10x50	135.00
HR 8x32 MC	152.00
HR 8x42 MC	155.00
HR 10x42 MC	162.00
HR 10x50MC	178.00
HR Body 80mm	269.00
30xWA	33.00
27x-80x Zoom	85.00
HR Body 22x & Case	179.95
HR GA 22x & Case	189.95
HR 45 22x & Case	219.95
HR Body 20x-60x & Case	219.95
HR GA20x-60x & Case	229.95
HR 45 20x-60x & Case	249.95
25x, 40x, 22xWA	32.00
Classic IF60	110.00
Classic IF75	140.00
18xWA or 22 x WA	24.00
25x or 30x	24.00
18x-45x or 22-47x zoom	61.00
Piccolo MKII Body	128.00
Eye Pieces from	29.00
Piccolo ED 20x60	355.00
Piccolo ED 20x-60x60	399.00
Photo Kits from	30.00
Cases for scopes	15.00
Macro Monocular	50.00

OBSERVATION BINOCULARS

Opticron 20x80	390.00
Opticron 30x80	395.00

ROSS

	£
Cavendish 8x42B	139.95
Hanover 10x42B	149.95
Regent 8x42B	169.95
Kensington 10x42B	179.95

SWAROVSKI

	£
10x40 Diana	372.00
7x30SLC II	353.00
8x30SLC II	365.00
8x20B	220.00
10X25B	230.00
AT80 Body	547.00
22xWA	72.00
20x-60x Zoom	164.00
Case	93.00

BUSHNELL

	£
Spacemaster Body	145.00
S/Master Body ED	299.00
S/Master GA Body	178.00
15x-45x Zoom	79.00
22xWA	32.00
Case	20.00
Photo Kit	30.00

VELBON

	£
Victory 350	39.95
D-600	69.95
D-700	79.95

CULLMANN

	£
Hide Clamp	54.95
Shoulder Pad	29.95
Q/R System	10.95
Q/R Plate	5.95

SLIK

	£
Master D-3	89.95

MANFROTTO

290/128	95.00
290B/128	99.00
144/128	105.00
144B/128	109.00
Tripod Strap	14.95
Q/R Plate	5.95
Monopod 079B or 134B	29.95

BENBO

Trekker with Cullman Video Head	89.95
Trekker Monopod	29.95
95 Monopod	34.95

ACCESSORIES

Car Window Mount	26.00
Universal Mount	26.00
Hide Clamp	38.00
Rainguards from	3.50
Lens Cleaning Cloth	3.00
Tripod Strap	6.95
Lanyards from	4.00
Dust Away	3.95
Double eyepiece Case	9.95
Tamrac 60/80mm Scope Case	24.50
Equipment Guide	3.95

INTEREST FREE CREDIT
Three months interest-free credit available on all orders for new equipment of £400 and above.

SECOND HAND ITEMS
Instruments always available. On receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope we can supply current price lists of binoculars and telescopes.

RSPB Partners ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1991

BLUE RIBAND CARE PLAN
For a single payment of £15 the new in Focus Blue Riband Careplan offers :-

- Accidental damage cover for three years from date of purchase on all new binoculars and telescopes.
- Guaranteed part-exchange trade-in value on any further purchases with In Focus - rising to 100% of original purchase price after five years.

MAIL AND TELEPHONE ORDERS
Any orders received by mail or telephone will automatically qualify for a free Blue Riband Care Plan worth £15. Please remember to add £2.00 towards the cost of insured Trakbak postage and packing - whether paying by cheque, Visa, Access or Mastercard - and goods will be despatched with full 14 days approval the same day on receipt of your remittance.

BIRD ILLUSTRATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS
Write or phone for details of our new intensive one-day bird illustration and photography workshops being held at the Lemsford Springs Reserve near Welwyn in Hertfordshire. Led by the wildlife artist, John Cox, and the bird photographer, Dave Cottridge, bookings are now being taken for the autumn programme. As places on each workshop are limited apply now to avoid disappointment.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECOND HAND SCOPES ASK FOR DETAILS

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK at the Briarfields Hotel at Titchwell in Norfolk on all purchases of £400 or more at the current In Focus list prices.

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition telescopes and binoculars.

D183

TWICKERS
WORLD
The natural world

INDIA'S ANNUAL ANCIENT ELEPHANT FAIR
THE SONEPUR MELA
Escorted from London. 15 days, departing Nov. 4. FB de luxe accomm. From £2095.

WILDLIFE OF INDIA & NEPAL
Escorted by Cliff Jones. 22 days, departing Nov. 4 '92 & Feb. 5 '93. From £2654.

WILDLIFE OF MADAGASCAR & MAURITIUS
Accompanied by Nick Adams of the Jersey Zoo Wildlife Preservation Trust.
22 days, departing Nov. 9. From £2850.



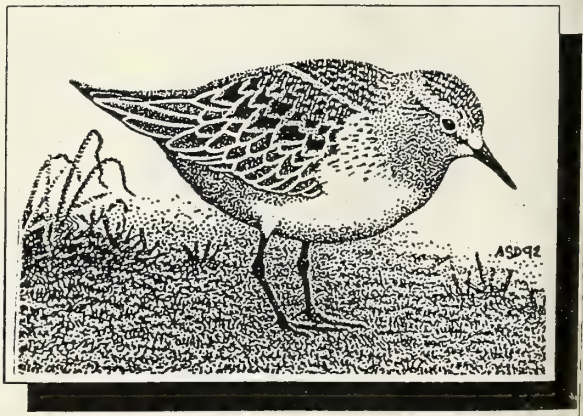
22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW
Telephone 081-892 8164
24 hour brochure service 081-892 7851
Fax 081-892 8061 ABTA No 60340

(D190)

Available NOW

BIRDCALL

The new, rarity alert paging system. With the support of both Birdline and the Regional Birdlines. Write for details to Birdcall at:



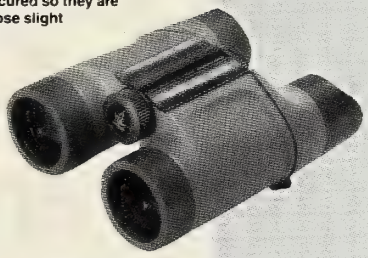
8 Harrison Grove, Harrogate,
North Yorkshire HG1 4QJ.

(D200

SLC BINOCULAR

MODEL ILLUSTRATED 8 x 30 SIX MODELS IN THE RANGE

The compact SL model has a new roof prism system to provide a neat and lightweight binocular you can take anywhere. Like its big brother the prisms are first laser aligned then secured so they are shock resistant. This process also eliminates those slight mis-alignments which you can't usually see, but can cause eye-strain and sometimes headaches.

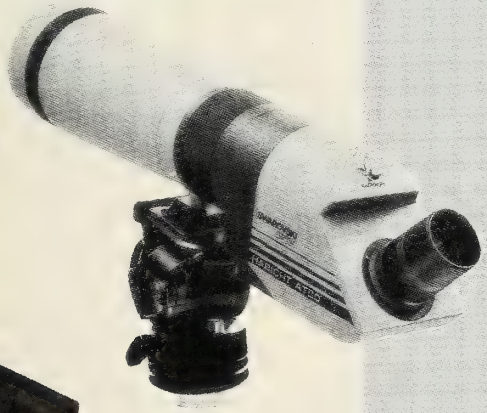


FULLY WATERPROOF

AT80 TELESCOPE

With a large 80mm diameter objective lens, the latest AT80 observation scope gives optimal performance even in poor light. Exchangeable oculars with bayonet catch and replaceable turn-back eyecups make for comfortable viewing, whilst ultra-fast focusing down to 6m provides a good all-round range. An integrated optik adapter enables the connection of a reflex camera for a new dimension in close-up photography.

FULLY WATERPROOF





FULLY WATERPROOF

8 x 20 B COMPACT BINOCULARS

The pocket sized Habicht 8 x 20 B binoculars represent the latest in state-on-the-art technology. Featuring a wide field of view with high-resolution image, they are the latest in a superb range of binoculars from Swarovski Optik, noted for its excellence in high quality optical performance.

All Swarovski Optik products are manufactured in Austria and carry a full warranty.

For further information and a full colour brochure please write to:

SWAROVSKI UK LIMITED
Fleming Way, Crawley. West Sussex RH10 2NL.
Telephone: 0293 525801. Fax: 0293 510018. Telex: 877643 SWARO G.

SWAROVSKI OPTIK

The natural choice.

(D191)

Now you don't have to get up at 5am to find the best birds

(Just wait until the postman comes!)

BIRDWATCH magazine gives you the most in-depth coverage of birds and birding you'll ever need.

In each colourful issue you'll find features on identification, conservation, birding 'hot-spots' at home and abroad, photography and all the latest news, reviews and rarity reports.

And from less than £2.00 per copy*, it's now also the best value birding magazine you can buy. Make sure you send off a subscription today and guarantee your copy.

BIRDWATCH

The magazine that gets you closer to the birds

*Subject to terms of special offer

Subscribe today!

❑ Please send me 12 issues at the special rate of £23.50 (£33 organisations, £34 Europe & surface mail, £75 air mail)

❑ Please send me 6 issues at the standard rate of £12.90 (£18 organisations, £19.20 Europe and surface mail, £44.90 air mail)

* I enclose a cheque/PO payable to Solo Publishing Ltd for £ ____

* Please debit £ ____ from my Access/Visa card number:

*Delete as appropriate Exp date

Signed Date

Name

Address

Post code

Please return coupon and payment to:

BIRDWATCH Subscriptions, PO Box 1786, London E17 7JG

(D201)

THE VULTURES *OF AFRICA*

by **P. Mundy, D. Butchart, J. Ledger, and S. Piper**

For the first time ever, ***The Vultures of Africa*** presents all 11 species in an authoritative account that will rank as one of the most important works on these fascinating but threatened birds. Dr Peter Mundy and his fellow authors answer every conceivable question on the biology and lifestyle of these birds in a text that is a refreshing departure from traditional bird monographs. Divided into four parts, the book first offers an introduction to all 22 species of the world's vultures from an evolutionary standpoint. In the second part, the African vultures are placed under the spotlight with a complete description of each bird's discovery through identification, distribution, behaviour, feeding, breeding, and current conservation status. Part three reveals the diversity within this group of scavenging birds by taking a comparative look at their foraging, feeding, socialising, and breeding habits. The final section documents the interrelationship of vultures and humans in Africa, and discusses modern day conservation issues. Duncan Butchart splendidly captures each species with his watercolour paintings and pencil sketches. More than 130 photographs, and numerous maps and diagrams lend visual immediacy to this absorbing text.

ISBN: 0-12-510585-1
September 1992, £55.00, 460 pages

Available from all good booksellers or

Academic Press
24-28 Oval Road
London NW1 7DX
Telephone: 071-267-4466

(D198)

Another 1st for FOCUS OPTICS!

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR POPULAR BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE BUSINESS

MIDLANDS LEADING OPTICS SPECIALISTS HAVE CREATED A NEW

BIRD and CONSERVATION CENTRE

Set in twenty acres of private grounds adjacent to our Optics Showroom, offering a comprehensive range of quality Bird and Conservation products.

WE STOCK ONLY THE BEST!

'ROHAN' and 'CRAGHOPPERS'
A full range of Top Quality outdoor clothing for Bird Watchers and Ramblers.
Breathable Waterproof Jackets. Many sizes and colours to choose from.

'BRASHER' Boots
Comfortable, Lightweight Waterproof and Strong.

'MEPHISTO'
Boots and Shoes.
Sturdy and stylish - ideal for town and country!

'BILLINGHAM'
Camera & Equipment Bags
Waterproof, Adaptable and Strong.

BIRD TABLES and NEST BOXES.
A complete range of nest boxes and bat boxes, made to BTO specifications by a local craftsman.

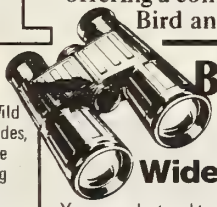
BOOKS
Birds, Natural History, Wild Flowers, Insects, Field Guides, Monographs, Reference Books etc. from leading publishers.
WORLDWIDE COVERAGE
Book Tokens available and exchanged.

AUDIO CASSETTES
Bird call and song cassettes of birds in Britain and Europe.

VIDEO CASSETTES
RSPB, National Geographic, World of Survival, BBC. to entertain and increase your knowledge!

BAROMETERS
German movement, Double diaphram, Hand turned in various wood surrounds.

GREETINGS CARDS & Limited Edition Prints
by Wildlife Artist
David Fish



BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

Wide range • Top quality

You can select and test the worlds finest optical instruments from our centrally located showroom.

ZEISS • LEICA • HABICHT • BAUSCH & LOMB • OPTOLYTH QUESTAR • NIKON • ADLERBLICK • BUSHNELL • OPTIMA KOWA • BRESSER • OPTICRON • MIRADOR • REDFIELD PENTAX • FUMOTO • SWIFT • FUJINON • PRAKTICA • ROSS

We carry one of the most extensive ranges of Binoculars and Telescopes in the country, with the needs of the ornithologist in mind. Our own conservation area makes us unique. A pool and woodland adjacent to our showroom attract numerous birds, enabling visitors to test equipment in field conditions.

Tripods include: SLIK, MANFROTTO and CULLMANN.

We also offer a wide range of accessories:
EYECUPS, RAINGUARDS, LENS CAPS, LANYARDS, CASES, CLEANING KITS etc.

MAGAZINES
BIRDWATCH
BIRDING WORLD and BIRDWATCHING
are available from our showroom.

RSPB and BTO membership is available through Focus Optics.
JOIN NOW!

OPENING TIMES
Monday to Saturday
9am until 5pm
Plenty of FREE safe parking

Send NOW for our latest Price Lists or visit our showrooms.
Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

BIRD FOOD and FEEDERS
C. J. Wildbird Food.
All types and quantities with feeders to match. Simple wire cages to sophisticated large perspex feeders.

FIRST for Quality, Service and Progress

The friendly experts professionals recommend!

FOCUS OPTICS

Church Lane, Corley, Coventry, CV7 8BA.

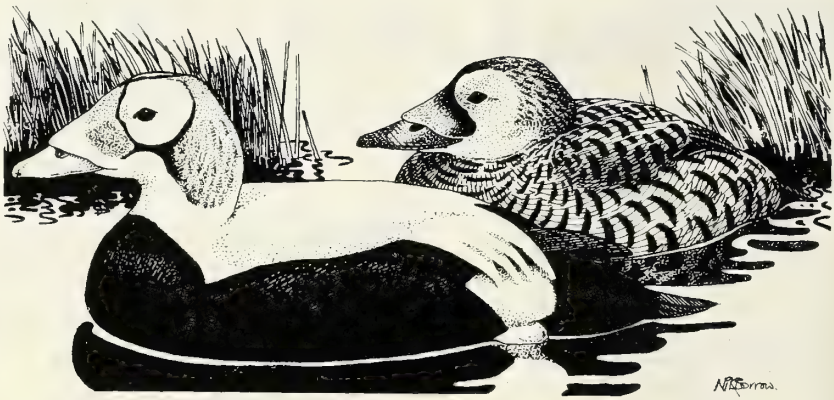
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

(D197)

BIRDQUEST

FIRST CHOICE IN ASIA

Spectacled Eiders



The Asian Experts - offering the finest, most wide-ranging programme of Asian birding tours and the smallest group size limit (10-12).

The Pioneers - exploring new areas across the continent from the deserts of Iran to the forests of Vietnam and from the tundra of Arctic Siberia to the towering volcanoes of Indonesia.

The Leaders - finding Birdquesters the birds that others only dream about, whether it's Grey Hypocolius along the Persian Gulf, nesting Spectacled Eiders and Ross's Gulls in the Kolyma tundra, 1500 Siberian Cranes in the valley of the Yangtze, the mighty Philippine Eagle in the forests of Mindanao or Germain's Peacock-Pheasant in Vietnam.

BIRDQUEST ... Smaller Groups, Better Birding!

For our brochure please contact us at:
Two Jays, Kemple End, Birdy Brow,
Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB6 9QY.
Tel: 0254-826317. Fax: 0254-826780.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

(D193)

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 1992

Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1991

Sponsored by
ZEISS
Germany

Michael J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee with comments by Colin Bradshaw and Peter Clement

This is the thirty-fourth annual report of the Rarities Committee, and with its publication *Carl Zeiss—Germany* has reached the tenth anniversary of sponsorship of the Committee's work. To celebrate a decade of this much appreciated co-operation, an article about the Committee and *Carl Zeiss—Germany* will appear in the October issue of the magazine *Bird Watching*.

Rarities Committee membership is listed on the inside front cover of *British Birds* each month, and on the back of the title page in each volume. Points of interest arising mainly from the Committee's annual meeting in April 1992 have been published already in 'Rarities Committee news and announcements' (*Brit. Birds* 85: 330-333), which includes information on the Committee's new record form, fact sheet and list of species considered, copies of which may be obtained from the Secretary, Michael J. Rogers, whose address is at the end of this report (please enclose a suitable SAE). All records of any species on the Committee's list should be sent to the Secretary or, in the case of a trapped and ringed rarity, to the BTO Ringing Office, both preferably via the appropriate county or regional recorder.

1991 and earlier years

The Committee has already processed 540 records for 1991, 78% of which have been accepted. Delays in assessment can be caused by late submission (by the observer or by the county recorder), problems concerning the identification which require detailed investigation, or the sheer workload of the Committee. A total of 233 records for 1990 and earlier years is still outstanding: 159 of these are under active consideration, whilst the remaining 74 are awaiting the results of further enquiries. The Rarities Committee is currently engaged upon reviews of the records of American Golden Plover *Pluvialis*

dominica and Pacific Golden Plover *P. fulva*, Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* and Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*.

Of most interest to readers are those records which involve potential 'firsts' for Britain and Ireland or birds which have not been recorded here since before 1958 and are thus candidates for upgrading from Category B to Category A of the British and Irish list. Such records in England, Scotland and Wales are considered, in turn, by the British Birds Rarities Committee and by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. This report contains five such highlights: Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis/P. (m.) madeira/P. (m.) feae* at Porthgwarra, Cornwall, in August 1989, Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* at Irvine, Strathclyde, in November-December 1979, Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* on Lundy, Devon, in May-June 1990 and April-June 1991, Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, in June 1990, and Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* at Kenidjack, Cornwall, in September 1990, all of which are new to Britain and Ireland. Each of the five species was or will be added to Category A of the British and Irish list (the Barrow's Goldeneye being upgraded from Category D) when published in the BOURC's Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports (*Ibis* 134: 211-214; *Ibis* in press).

Those pre-1991 records with which the BBRC is currently involved concern 'Giant Petrel' *Macronectes halli/M. giganteus*, White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, Madeiran Petrel *Oceanodroma castro*, Matsudaira's Petrel *O. matsudairae*, South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*, White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*, Least Tern *S. (albifrons) antillarum*, and Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*. Excluding very old records which are under reconsideration, those pre-1991 records being investigated by the BOURC concern Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*, Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*, Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*, Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*, Mottled Swift *Apus aequinoctialis*, Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*, Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*, Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*, Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*, Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*, Two-barred Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*, White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*, Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus*, Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*, Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*, Painted Bunting *P. ciris*, Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* and Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*. (Records considered by the BBRC and subsequently passed to the BOURC have not necessarily been accepted by the Rarities Committee.)

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank most sincerely all observers and county and regional recorders, bird observatory wardens and reserve wardens and their committees for their continued co-operation, upon which the day-to-day work of the Rarities Committee and this report's accuracy and completeness are entirely dependent. We are grateful also to the Irish Rare Birds Committee and its Secretary, Patrick Smiddy, for permission to include in the report all accepted records of rare birds in Ireland and for supplying the details which enable us to provide a complete review of all rare-bird records and running totals of all rare species in the geographical unit of Britain and Ireland.

In addition, we are indebted to many individuals and organisations for assistance during the past year. For an amazing fifteenth consecutive year, Mike Rogers has carried out the enormous task of compiling the report. The species comments have been written jointly by Dr Colin Brad-

shaw (non-passerines) and Peter Clement (passerines), and the running totals for each species have been compiled by Peter Fraser and Dr John Ryan. The Seabirds Advisory Panel, whose members are Peter Colston, Bill Curtis, Jim Enticott, Steve Madge and Tony Marr, continue to provide the Committee with specialist advice. The BTO, English Nature, the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, the RSPB and the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, have liaised over various matters.

The Committee continues to encourage the submission of photographs and transparencies with rarity records, though not as substitutes for the written record, and thanks all photographers who have sent pictures of rarities, a selection of which enhances this report. Next month's issue of *British Birds* will feature 'The Carl Zeiss Award', which will be presented to the photographer who has supplied to the Rarities Committee 'the most helpful, interesting and instructive' photograph or transparency of a rarity, taken in the field in Britain (see *Brit. Birds* 84: 589 for the full rules). The Committee is grateful also to those observers who included drawings of rarities in their record submissions; some of these are included in this report. PGL

Systematic list of accepted records

The principles and procedures followed in considering records were explained in the 1958 report (*Brit. Birds* 53: 155-158). The systematic list is set out in the same way as in the 1990 report (84: 449-505). The following points show the basis on which the list has been compiled.

(i) The details included for each record are (1) county; (2) locality; (3) number of birds if more than one, and age and sex if known (in the case of spring and summer records, however, the age is normally given only where the bird concerned was not in adult plumage); (4) if photographed or tape-recorded (and this evidence seen or heard by the Committee); (5) if trapped or found dead and where specimen is stored, if known; (6) date(s); and (7) observer(s) up to three in number, in alphabetical order.

(ii) In general, this report is confined to records which are regarded as certain, and 'probables' are not included. In the case of the very similar Long-billed *Limnodromus scolopaceus* and Short-billed Dowitchers *L. griseus*, however, we are continuing to publish indeterminate records, and this also applies to those of pratincoles *Glareola*, albatrosses *Diomedea* and frigatebirds *Fregata*.

(iii) The sequence of species, English names and specific nomenclature follow *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1984). Any sight records of subspecies (including those of birds trapped and released) are normally referred to as 'showing the characters' of the race concerned.

(iv) The three numbers in brackets after each species' name refer respectively to the total number of individuals recorded in Britain and Ireland (excluding those 'At sea') (1) to the end of 1957, (2) for the period since the formation of the Rarities Committee in 1958, but excluding (3) the current year. The decision as to how many individuals were involved is often difficult and rather arbitrary, but the consensus of members is indicated by 'possibly the same' (counted as different in the totals), 'probably the same' (counted as the same in totals), or 'the same' when the evidence is certain or overwhelming. An identical approach is applied to records of the same species recurring at the same locality after a lapse of time, including those which occur annually at the same or a nearby site. In considering claims of more than one individual at the same or adjacent localities, the Committee usually requires firm evidence before more than one is counted in the totals. A detailed breakdown of the figures for previous years is held by the Honorary Secretary.

(v) The world breeding range is given in brackets at the beginning of each species comment.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (18, 120, 10)
Gwynedd Holyhead Harbour, first-winter, 24th February to 19th May, photographed (K. G. Croft, C. Fox, D. Worrall *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 169).
Lothian Gosford Bay, Aberlady and Gullane Bay area: at least one first-summer, 31st July to September; two first-summers, at least 25th-30th August (A. Brown, P. Ford, N. Hunter *et al.*).
Orkney Burray, first-winter, 9th-22nd February (M. Gray *et al.*). Stromness, 20th February (M. Gray).
Shetland Whalsay, adult, since 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 452) to 9th April (per D. Suddaby). Bluemull Sound, juvenile, 13th January (M. Heubeck, D. Suddaby *et al.*). West Burrafirth, adult, 7th-9th February (P. M. Ellis, D. Suddaby *et al.*). Holm of Heogland, Unst, adult, 19th November (M. Heubeck, M. Mellor, R. J. Tulloch).
Strathclyde Machrihanish Bay, 5th May (R. H. Hogg, W. McKechnie).
Western Isles Rubha Ardvule, South Uist, first-summer, 14th June (T. J. Barker, R. S. Slack).

(Arctic Russia eastwards to Arctic Canada) One of the better years for this species, with the long-staying Gwynedd bird filling a hole on many lists that did not stretch back to the 1981 Hartlepool bird. The Whalsay individual failed to return for what would have been its fourteenth successive winter.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* (2, 25, 0)
Shetland Hermaness, Unst, individual last recorded 10th June 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 452), 23rd March to 13th April, intermittently to 4th June (per D. Suddaby).
1990 Dyfed Skokholm, 19th August (G. Thompson).

(Southern Oceans) A record from sea area Viking in 1989 was just outside British waters and has been passed to the Norwegian rarities committee. The Hermaness bird once more returned, albeit sporadically. It has been recorded since 1972, with the exception of 1988-89. Records from Norway suggest, however, that on at least two occasions in the last five years another albatross has been within a few hundred kilometres of this lonely bachelor or spinster.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* (0, 1, 0)
1989 Cornwall Porthgwarra, 12th August (P. A. Flint, D. J. W. Walker); 13th (B. R. Field, P. Harrison *et al.*); 14th (T. M. Blackburn, N. J. Hallam, I. Lewington *et al.*).

(Atlantic south from Madeira, southern Pacific and Indian Oceans) This new species for the British list was seen on three successive days, allowing one of the few 'twitches' for a seabird ever (because of the circuitous feeding movements of other species off Porthgwarra, the Committee feels that these records probably relate to the same individual). (*British Birds*, following Voous 1977, *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species*, recognises only one species, regarding *madeira* and *feae* as races of *P. mollis*.)

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (4, 11, 0)
At sea Sea area Fastnet, 50° 03'N 06° 41'W, about 40 km west of Bishop Rock, Scilly, two, 24th July (W. F. Curtis). Sea area Sole, 48° 25'N 08° 24'W, near Little Sole Bank, 28th August (A. Webb). Irish Sea, 51° 36'N 06° 27'W, 3rd August (G. Harper, E. J. Smith).

(Southern Oceans) Once again, all this year's records come from boats either 'Desperately Seeking Seabirds' or en passant.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (50, 9, 1)
Lancashire Marton Mere, adult, 24th January to at least 12th May, photographed (P. I. Holt, D. J. McCullagh *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plates 173 & 176).

(North America) Another bird that wiped the complacent grins off the faces

of 1981 birders. The first in Britain since the equally obliging birds of that year.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 299, 1)
Bedfordshire Brogborough Lake, second-summer, 28th November (R. Dumpleton, R. D. Moore).
1989 Wight, Isle of Brading Marsh, juvenile, 3rd November (M. Webb).
1990 Devon Ermington, adult, taken into care exhausted, 27th March, photographed, released Lopwell, 28th (L. Hurrell, R. Swinfen).
1990 Man, Isle of Michael, adult, 30th March to 4th April (A. & J. Hopson, A. S. Moore *et al.*).
1990 Scilly St Mary's, six adults: 17th March to 1st April; 19th-24th March, when dead; 29th March to 4th April; 4th April to 2nd May; 9th April to 13th May; 24th April to 4th June; two first-summers: 17th-18th March; 3rd May to 15th June. St Martin's, adult, 17th, 29th March, presumed same, Tresco, 18th March to 9th April (D. J. D. Hickman, I. R. Hunt, W. H. Wagstaff *et al.*).
1990 Surrey Bookham Common, first-summer, 7th-16th April, photographed (D. Connell, D. Element).
1990 West Midlands Hay Head Wood, Walsall, adult, 16th-22nd April (*Brit. Birds* 84: 454), same, Park Lane Lime-pits, 25th; original finder was J. M. Beechey (per T. Hesketh).

(South Eurasia, Africa and the Americas) In complete contrast to the previous year, there was a dearth of Night Herons in 1991, although a couple of records are still in circulation and some others have not been submitted yet. The list of continuing acceptances for 1990 illustrates just how good a year that was for this species. A record of an adult and a second-winter at Horning, Norfolk, on 17th January 1982 was considered to relate to birds of captive origin; the former bore yellow rings on each leg.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 31, 0)
1990 Devon Aveton Gifford, 3rd-6th June, photographed (H. & Mrs J. Huggins, P. Sanders *et al.*).

(Southern Europe, Southwest Asia, and Africa) No records in 1991, but another from 1990, which was the best-ever year since at least 1958 for this species.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 713, –)
1989 Gloucestershire Sharpness, 2nd September; same, Purton, to 2nd October (Mr & Mrs J. Gay *et al.*).
1989 Merseyside Seaforth, 18th August (A. Quinn *et al.*), probably same as Clwyd individual, 19th-24th (*Brit. Birds* 83: 443).
1989 Yorkshire, South Sprotborough Flash, 25th May (H. Parkin).
1990 Cheshire Neumann's Flash, 6th May (D. & R. Elphick), probably same as Clwyd individual, 11th, 23rd (*Brit. Birds* 84: 455).
1990 Dyfed/Glamorgan, West Penclawdd, up to five, 6th August to at least 29th September (*Brit. Birds* 84: 456), up to six, Wernffrwd and Penclawdd, 11th-13th August, five of same, Penclacwydd, Dyfed, 13th; one of same, Weobley, West Glamorgan, 11th (W. E. Jones, K. R. Lloyd).
1990 Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, 14th January (R. M. Andrews *et al.*).
1990 Wight, Isle of Lakeside, 16th August (*Brit. Birds* 84: 456), two, 28th September, 1st October (G. Walls per J. M. Cheverton); presumed one of same, Yar Estuary, 17th, 23rd August (E. D. Bushby, R. Herbert, per J. M. Cheverton). Newtown, 20th October (D. Rickman per J. M. Cheverton). All probably from Hampshire (*Brit. Birds* 84: 456).

(South Eurasia, Africa and Australia) The Committee members heaved a collective sigh of relief when they made the decision that Little Egret should be removed from the list. The Committee still, however, has to deal with the

hangover from 1990 which left the members punch-drunk. Several extensions of the 1990 records are added above, and on top of that come the Channel Islands records for 1990: St Saviour, Jersey, up to four, 5th January to 18th March, singles during 12th-15th May; up to six, 2nd July to end of year, and an additional party of sixteen on 5th September.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 42, 1)
Cornwall Lynher Estuary, 30th March (E. Griffiths).
1989 Devon Kingsbridge, 23rd-24th April (S. Bird, B. R. Field, P. McQuillan *et al.*).
1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, 17th October (P. M. Howlett, S. W. Walker).

(Almost cosmopolitan; extremely local in Europe) Only a single record in 1991, contrasting with six in each of the preceding two years.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 58, 22)
Cornwall St Buryan, 27th August (A. Blunden, J. Warwick).
Devon Crediton, 30th August (H. Meller, J. Schofield). Dene Prior, three adults, 22nd September (L. R. & Mrs M. Cox, J. C. Lowen).
Dorset Near Ringstead Bay, 8th August (H. Squire).
Dyfed Skokholm, 27th-28th April (M. Betts). Skomer, 29th July (S. J. & Mrs A. C. Sutcliffe, S. Wilson); same, Marloes, 2nd August (R. M. Bishop, S. J. & Mrs A. C. Sutcliffe).
Essex Epping Forest, 7th July (K. Evans, N. A. May *et al.*). Frinton-on-Sea, 30th September (Dr R. J. & Mrs T. M. Banham).
Gwynedd Near Carmel Head, Anglesey, 22nd June (Dr M. H. J. & Mrs E. A. Finch).
Highland Sanna, Ardnamurchan, 18th May (M. Madders, P. Snow, J. Welstead). Between Avoch and Munlochy, 23rd July (C. H. Crooke, B. Etheridge, D. C. Orr-Ewing).
Kent Elmley, 12th May (J. A. Rowlands, D. W. Taylor *et al.*). Dungeness, 1st June (D. Boyle, D. C. Gilbert *et al.*).
Leicestershire Husband's Bosworth, two, 18th July (N. W. Hagley).
Norfolk/Suffolk Santon Downham, 3rd July (C. Kightley, B. Small) (fig. 1).
Sussex, West Cissbury, 26th August (C. E. Hope).
Western Isles Uig, Lewis, two, 25th to about 31st July, one of same, 4th August, dead, 5th, both photographed 25th July (P. Cunningham, R. Macintyre, F. Maciver *et al.*) (plate 215).
Yorkshire, North Dalby Forest, 9th June (J. G. Sigsworth, D. G. Storey *et al.*).
1990 Dumfries & Galloway Caerlaverock, 24th-25th June (J. B. Doherty, P. Shimmings), probably same as Leighton Moss, Lancashire, individual, 21st (*Brit. Birds* 84: 458).
1990 Essex See 1990 Suffolk below.
1990 Greater London See 1990 Suffolk below.
1990 Northamptonshire See 1990 Suffolk below.
1990 Suffolk Ellough and Sotterly area, juvenile, 28th-29th July, 16 further localities to at least 1st September (*Brit. Birds* 84: 458); at least two individuals involved as follows: adult, Hulver and Ellough area, 28th-29th July; same, Benacre, 29th; Hemley, 29th; possibly same, Minsmere, 17th August; Bromeswell, 21st; possibly same as Greater London individual, 25th; immature, Iken and Snape area, 4th-8th August; presumed same, Blythburgh, 19th; Benacre, 20th; presumed same, Northamptonshire, 27th-28th July, Essex, 25th-26th August; presumed same, Covehithe, 12th September (D. Tutt). (All Suffolk data per P. W. Murphy.)



215. Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Lewis, Western Isles, August 1991 (*R. Macintyre*)

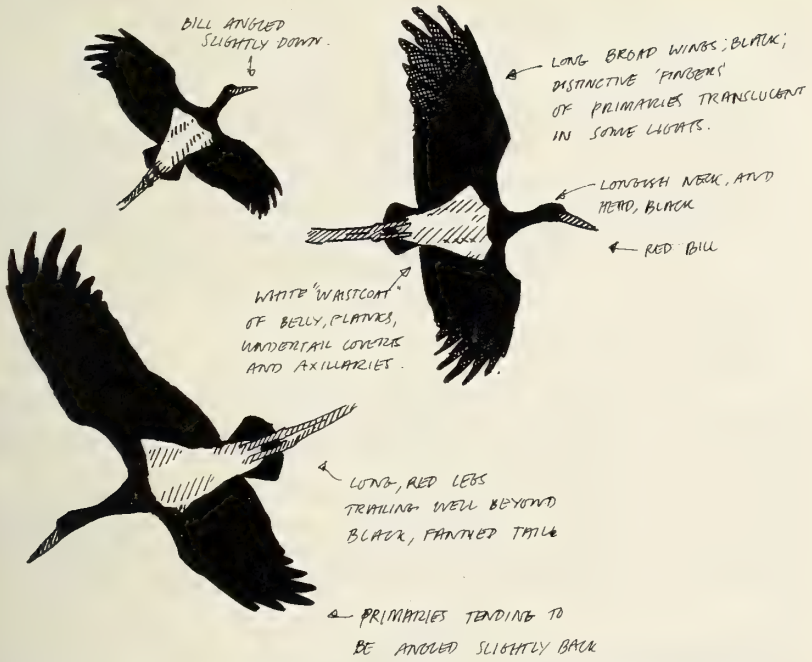


Fig. 1. Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Santon Downham, Suffolk, July 1991 (*Brian Small*)

(Eurasia and Southern Africa) A remarkable series of records in a year not renowned for southern vagrants. The unpredictability of how far and in what direction this species wanders makes it impossible safely to relate any of the 1991 records to another. Sufficient to say that this is far and away the best year on record.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 59, 0)

Kent Stodmarsh area, 1990 individual (*Brit. Birds* 84: 458) January to March, 27th-28th April, regularly May, 16th August to end of year; same, Elmley, 17th-18th May, 27th-30th June (per D. W. Taylor).

1989 Yorkshire, South Thorpe Marsh, 24th-29th May (A. Oates, D. Page, P. Sutton); same, intermittently, Fairburn Ings, North/West Yorkshire, Leventhorpe Hall, North Yorkshire, 29th May to 26th June (C. Winn *et al.*).

1989 Yorkshire, North See above.

1989 Yorkshire, West See above.

(Almost cosmopolitan but nearest breeders in Camargue, France) The long-staying Kent bird was the only record received in 1991. The 1989 Yorkshire bird fits in well with the Northumbrian individual *(Brit. Birds* 83: 447). Care should be taken in the identification of this species as there are known to be free-flying Puna Ibises *P. ridgwayi* in Britain.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* (0, 7, 0)

An individual showing the characters of the nominate North American and East Siberian race was recorded as follows:

1990 Somerset Wet Moor, adult, 3rd-4th January; same, King's Sedgemoor, 15th February

12th December 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 462); same, Marine Park Lake, intermittently, 13th April to 28th October (A. L. Armstrong *et al.* per B. N. Rossiter); also in Northumberland.
Yorkshire, West Allerton Bywater, ♂, 20th March (G. Carr, S. Gear, M. Simpson); same, Parker's Pond, Ledston, 24th (J. Martin); same, New Swillington Ings, 31st (M. P. Lawlor *et al.*); presumed returning New Swillington individual, 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 462). Wintersett Reservoir, ♂, 26th-28th August, 19th-20th September (S. Denny, P. Smith *et al.*), probably same as New Swillington individual.
1988 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, ♂, 6th March to 24th April (L. M. & R. L. Lowndes *et al.*).
1989 Highland Loch Morlich, ♂, 2nd January to 13th February; same, Loch Garten, 8th April (D. M. Pullan *et al.*), same as 1988 Highland individual (*Brit. Birds* 83: 453).
1990 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, juvenile or first-winter, 26th September (D. Lewis, J. M. Walters), presumed same as at Loe Pool, 29th September to 19th October (*Brit. Birds* 84: 461).
1990 Devon Kitley Pond, ♀, 15th December to at least 31st March 1991 (A. J. Pomroy), presumed returning individual last recorded 24th March 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 461).
1990 Dumfries & Galloway Milton Loch, ♀, at least 24th December (T. Drew, P. Shimmings *et al.*), presumed same, Auchenreoch Loch, 1991 above.
1990 Highland Loch Pityoulish, ♂, 18th February (*Brit. Birds* 84: 462), 2nd March; same, Loch Vaa, 24th-25th March, Inverdruie, 16th-19th April, Loch Morlich, 1st-30th November, Loch Insh, 18th December (D. M. Pullan *et al.*); all refer to individual first recorded in 1980. See also 1991 above.
1990 Lancashire Stocks Reservoir, ♂, since 1989 (*Brit. Birds* 83: 452), intermittently to 18th March, also at Foulridge Reservoir, Wood End Sewage-farm (R. Ashworth, E. G. Davis, P. J. Hornby *et al.* per M. Jones); presumed same, Clowbridge Reservoir, 27th September, Black Moss and Dean Clough Reservoirs and Primrose Lodge, Clitheroe, 2nd December to 1991 (A. A. Cooper, S. E. Duffield, P. I. Holt *et al.* per M. Jones).
1990 Oxfordshire Henley Road Gravel-pit, Dunsden, ♂, 18th March (R. G. Bowles).
1990 Somerset Wimbleball Lake, ♂, 15th-31st December (B. D. Gibbs *et al.* per B. Rabbitts); same, Clatworthy Reservoir, at least 16th December (per B. Rabbitts); presumed returning 1989 individual (*Brit. Birds* 83: 452).
1990 Yorkshire, West Swillington Park Lake, ♂, 31st March (*Brit. Birds* 84: 462), 16th May (G. L. Haigh). See also 1991.

(North America) The sole Irish record accepted so far for 1991 is of a male at Inch Lake, Co. Donegal, on 5th May.

The large number of records disguises the fact that there are very few new records in 1991, with perhaps eight at most. One is left to speculate why there is such a high percentage of males compared with females, and also when we are going to have the first British-bred Ring-necked Ducks. There were hopes in Tyne & Wear in 1990, but the female seemed more interested in Tufted Ducks *A. fuligula* and the male in displaying to male Pochards *A. ferina*.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 4, 0)
Dumfries & Galloway See below.
1990 Dumfries & Galloway Milton Loch, ♂, 29th December (R. Hesketh *et al.*); same, Auchenreoch Loch, 31st to 25th January 1991 (I. Murray *et al.*).

(Western North America) This bird had the good sense to turn up right next to a café so that cold birders could have coffee and bacon butties whilst watching both this and a Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*. It is interesting that the first individual recorded in Ireland also turned up with a Ring-necked Duck; the Committee opts for mass immigration rather than mass break-out.

216. Top, Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*, Norwich, Norfolk, February 1991 (*Robin Chittenden*)

217. Centre left, Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Milford, Surrey, April 1991 (*E. F. J. Garcia*)

218 & 219. Centre right and bottom, Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Chippenham, Wiltshire, March/April 1991 (*centre, B. R. Mitchell; bottom, M. Coller*)











220 & 221. Adult Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (below with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*), Skellister, South Nesting, Shetland, May 1991 (*Eleanor McMahon*)





222. Above, adult winter Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*, New Brighton, Merseyside, March 1991 (*Steve Young*)

223. Below, female Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* in colony of Sandwich Terns *S. sandvicensis*, Inner Farne, Northumberland, July 1991 (*Phil Palmer*)



King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 154, 10)
Borders St Abb's Head, first-year ♂, 8th-28th June (R. D. Murray, D. Watson *et al.*); presumed same as Grampian.
Fife Tayport, ♂, intermittently, 30th January to 18th March (per D. E. Dickson), presumed one of Ythan Estuary, Grampian, individuals.
Grampian Ythan Estuary, ♂, since 23rd December 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 463), to at least July (per K. D. Shaw); additional ♂, 17th March (M. Kimber), 31st (A. & W. Brydges, I. Phillips, A. Tate *et al.*), to at least July (per K. D. Shaw); first-year ♂, 17th March (M. Kimber), presumed also in Borders. Murcar, ♂, 27th June (L. Austen, R. A. Schofield, K. D. Shaw *et al.*). Blackdog, two ♂♂, 15th July into August, photographed (I. Talbot, I. M. Tidmarch *et al.*). Donmouth, ♂, 9th October (per K. D. Shaw). All presumed same as Ythan Estuary. See also Fife, Lothian. Burghead, ♂, 25th May (C. H. Crooke, D. C. Orr-Ewing); presumed same, Kingston-on-Spey, 12th June (C. Gervaise, R. Shewan); presumed from Highland.
Highland Brora, Loch Fleet, Lothbeg area, ♂, 28th-31st March (G. Dutton, A. S. Kennedy *et al.* per A. R. Mainwood); 6th April, 1st-4th May (A. R. Mainwood); 11th June (N. E. Gammon, Mrs P. Walton); presumed same, 8th December (A. Vittery per A. R. Mainwood); probably also in Grampian above.
Lothian Seafield, Edinburgh, ♂, 5th to at least 15th December (G. Hopwood *et al.*), presumed one of east Grampian individuals.
Orkney Deerness, ♂, 19th May to 2nd June (E. R. Meek, E. & L. Tait *et al.*).
Shetland Lerwick, first-year ♂, 29th March to at least 18th May (C. Donald *et al.*). Noss, first-year ♂, 10th-28th May (R. Armstrong, D. Suddaby *et al.*); first-year ♀, 15th May to 7th July (R. Armstrong, D. Suddaby *et al.*). Trondra, first-year ♂, 7th to at least 18th May (I. Brown, F. Finen, D. Suddaby *et al.*). Trebister Ness, first-year ♂, 20th August (M. Heubeck), presumed one or other of preceding individuals above. Sumburgh Head, first-year ♂, 27th June to at least 21st August (M. Heubeck *et al.*), presumed one or other of preceding individuals; ♀, 3rd July (J. N. Dymond). Lerwick, ♂, 27th September to 3rd October (A. V. Moon *et al.*). Whalsay, first-year ♂, 5th October to 1st November (J. L. Irvine, Dr B. Marshall, N. D. Poleson), possibly one or other of preceding individuals).
1989 Shetland Fetlar, ♂, 25th June (L. Andrén, J. Törnquist).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Once again, a difficult task trying to sort out individuals and numbers. There is to be a paper soon in *British Birds* which will attempt to unravel the knot of King Eider records.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* (7, 4, 1)
Highland Wick, ♀, 6th February to 17th May, photographed (M. Harvey, D. C. Orr-Ewing, J. Porter *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plates 174, 177 & 178).

(Iceland, Greenland, North America and East Siberia) For those of us who missed the Islay bird, this was a most welcome visitor, and the long drive did not seem to deter anyone. Yet another rare duck to turn up within viewing distance of a very good café.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 290, –)
1990 Dyfed Marros Sands, ♂, 14th October to 4th November (F. B. Jenkins *et al.*).
1990 Grampian Murcar, ♂, date uncertain, September (R. J. & S. J. Aspinall).
1990 Humberside Barmston, ♂, 18th January (P. Piringer).

(North America) A late record of one at Rostrevor, Co. Down, on 12th November 1989.

Another species now off the Committee's list makes perhaps its swan-song.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (0, 1, 0)

(Iceland, Southwest Greenland, Western Canada and the USA) The record

of an adult male at Irvine, Strathclyde, on 4th November to 28th December 1979 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 528) has now been admitted to Category A.

Hooded Merganser *Mergus cucullatus* (5, 1, 0)

(North America) A female at Holme, Norfolk, on 3rd-15th June 1990 and a male at Peasholm Park Lake, North Yorkshire, from 24th September to 23rd December 1989 are both considered to have been escapes.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 142, 7)

Cornwall St Columb Major, 15th April (S. M. & Mrs A. D. Christophers, J. Hawkey). Marazion, 25th May (D. S. Flumm, M. Hutchens).
Dorset Portland, 23rd May (D. & G. Walbridge *et al.*).
Northumberland Kielder Forest, 18th April (M. Davison).
Staffordshire Morridge, 14th May (A. & W. J. Brydges, P. C. Fontana, P. Jones *et al.*).
Wight, Isle of Newchurch, 22nd May (J. C. & Mrs R. Gloyn).
1990 Dorset Winfrith Newburgh, 28th March (F. C. & J. C. Marshallsay), probably same as Yetminster, 26th (*Brit. Birds* 84: 464).

(Most of Eurasia, Africa and Australia) The fourth Irish record was a single at Midleton, Co. Cork, on 20th April. A poor showing, with fewer than in any year since 1984. It is interesting to note that up to 1966 there had been only five records of this species in Britain. Now we consider six in Britain in one year as bad.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 375, 5)

Greater London Rainham Marsh, first-summer ♂, 8th-16th June (S. R. Pickering *et al.*).
Leicestershire Thornton Reservoir, ♂, 28th June (D. J. S. Gamble) (fig. 2).
Norfolk Titchwell, ♀, 26th May (W. Parker, A. J. Shearman *et al.*); presumed same, Sandringham Warren, 26th (A. Harris, S. Rasch, J. Redwood).
Scilly St Martin's, ♀, 29th May to 2nd June (J. A. Flynn, D. & Mrs M. Hawkins *et al.*).

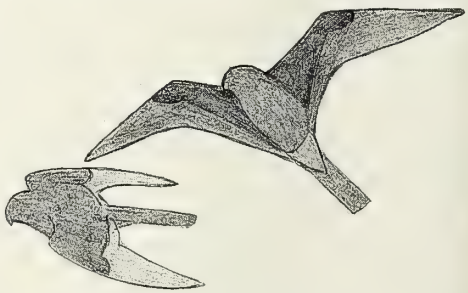


Fig. 2. Male Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*, Thornton Reservoir, Leicestershire, June 1991 (*Dave Gamble*)

1988 Dyfed Tregaron, ♀, 25th May to 2nd June (S. Parr, P. N. Prior *et al.*).
1989 Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, ♂, 13th May (R. L. K. Jolliffe). Little Paxton, first-summer ♂, at least 28th-30th May (*Brit. Birds* 84: 467), 31st (R. M. Patient).
1990 Cleveland Seal Sands, ♂, 10th May (*Brit. Birds* 84: 466), to 20th.
1990 Gloucestershire See 1990 Wiltshire below.
1990 Hampshire Farlington Marshes, ♀, 4th May (G. C. Stephenson).
1990 Kent Dover, ♂, 27th June (A. J. Greenland).
1990 Merseyside Seaforth, ♂, 22nd May, photographed (D. Gaunt, G. A. Harrison, S. R. Jennings).
1990 Norfolk Cley, ♀, 20th May (*Brit. Birds* 84: 467), observers were T. C. Davies, M. A. Golley, S. J. Harris. Cley, first-summer ♂, 23rd June (*Brit. Birds* 84: 467), same, Kelling, 24th (per P. R. Allard).
1990 Wight, Isle of Scratchell's Bay, ♂, 31st May (S. & B. K. Abbott).
1990 Wiltshire Cotswold Water-park, first-summer ♂, 27th-29th May (*Brit. Birds* 84: 467), departed into Gloucestershire, 29th (per G. R. Avery).

(East Europe to Central Siberia) One on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 31st May is only the sixth record for Ireland.

Rainham Marsh now joins the favoured sites for this delightful species. Numbers were comparatively low in 1991, although there are still several reports in circulation; it certainly did nothing to prepare us for the onslaught of 1992. Observers should note that it will make the Committee's job a lot simpler if adequate descriptions are submitted with all records for 1992, even though they may appear to be 'as common as Kestrels *F. tinnunculus*' this year.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 96, 2)

1990 Grampian Strathdon, 21st April (D. Calder, B. L. Cosnette).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Long-staying singles in Ireland, with one near Ballyconnelly, Co. Galway, from 1st to 10th April, and a first-winter at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, from 5th November into 1992.

The Grampian bird was an exciting find for a raptor worker on his spring censuses. The problem of large falcons in the south of England is taxing the Committee and the British postal service. With the recent increasing availability of falconers' hybrids, descriptions of this species need to be virtually perfect.

Sora *Porzana carolina* (5, 6, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 15th October to 1st November, probably since 4th October (B. C. Forrester, J. R. Hough, P. Morrison *et al.*) (plate 44, fig. 3).

(North America) This bird followed the pattern of some previous records both by arriving in September-October and by totally confusing the first few observers who saw it. Once it was sorted out, it seemed easy, but which of us has sufficient experience of the small crakes to be sure enough to be the first to put a name to one? This bird behaved beautifully (as did most of the birders and some of the photographers) for the rest of its stay.

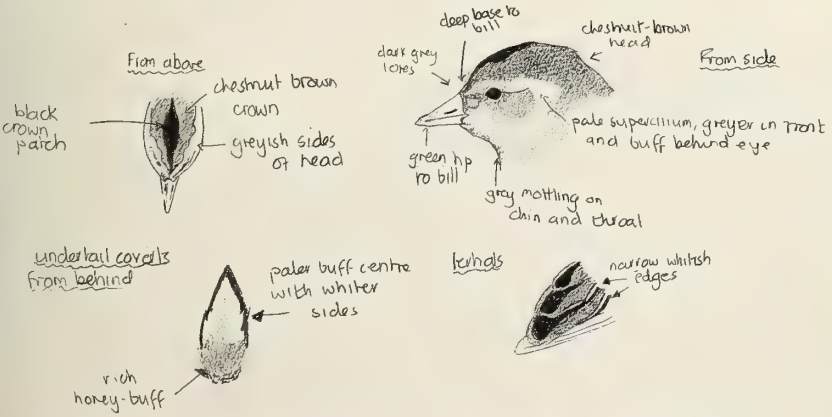


Fig. 3. First-winter Sora *Porzana carolina*, St Mary's, Scilly, October 1991 (*Julian Hough*)

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (many, 7, 1)
Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile ♀, trapped 28th September, found dead 2nd October, photographed (S. J. M. Gantlett, P. V. Harvey, D. Suddaby *et al.*) (plate 227), mounted specimen retained by D. Suddaby.
1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, probably first-winter ♂, dead, 16th June (P. M. Howlett *et al.*), now at National Museum of Wales.

(Eurasia, Africa and Australasia) Rumour reaches the Committee that several birders on Fair Isle were praying that this would be a Little Crake *P. parva* when it was caught, as they had all seen the Sunderland Baillon's Crake in 1989. In contrast to that bird, the identification of this individual was by no means straightforward. What a sad end for a very good bird.

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* (1, 1, 1)
Shetland Exnaboe and Sumburgh, first-summer moulting to second-winter, 17th-26th September, photographed (M. Davison, P. M. Ellis *et al.*) (plate 40).

(North America, Cuba and Northeast Siberia) The third record for Britain and Ireland allowed many to catch up with a species that most thought had gone for ever. Not satisfied with that, it then took off and did the same for Dutch birders (*Dutch Birding* 13: 226).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 168, 3)
Bedfordshire Dunstable, 26th-27th April, photographed (W. Drayton, P. J. Reese, P. Trodd *et al.*), probably same as Staffordshire individual.
Humberside Southfield Reservoir, 7th May (C. Featherstone); presumed same, Flamborough Head, 11th (B. J. N. Hill, M. Newsome, B. Richards); also in Lincolnshire.
Lincolnshire Covenham Reservoir, 6th May (K. E. Wilson *et al.*), also in Humberside.
Staffordshire Croxhall Gravel-pits, Alrewas, 28th April to at least 13th May (Mr & Mrs R. A. Wilson *et al.*), probably same as Bedfordshire individual.
Suffolk Trimley Marshes, 7th-25th July, photographed (R. Beecroft *et al.*) (plate 224).

(Southern Eurasia, Africa, Australia and the Americas) Only small numbers compared with 1987 and 1990, but more reminiscent of the general pattern for this species. There are still some records in circulation.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (30, 48, 0)
1990 Dorset Abbotsbury, 3rd May (S. A. Groves *et al.*).
1990 Scilly St Agnes, 3rd-4th April, died 4th (J. W. & Mrs P. Hale).

(South Europe, Southwest Asia and Africa) No records for 1991 and just the sweepings from the previous year.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 36, 1)
Western Isles Balranald, North Uist, at least 5th May (N. Briden, N. & Mrs R. Lester, Dr P. B. & Mrs J. A. Maxted *et al.*).
1990 Durham Cronkley, 25th March (D. Sharrod).

(North America) A local crofter had claimed to have seen the North Uist bird since late March, and this would fit in more with the established pattern of occurrence of this species.

224. Top, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Trimley Marshes, Suffolk, July 1991 (*Jack Levene*)

225. Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* with Dunlins *C. alpina*, Saltholme Pool/Greatham Creek, Cleveland, July/August 1990 (*M. N. Sidwell*)

226. Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, August 1991 (*Frank O'Duffy*)

227. Bottom, juvenile female Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*, Fair Isle, Shetland, October 1991 (*Alan Brown*)











228 & 229. Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*, Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, October 1991 (*Anthony McGeehan*)



Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (0, 9, 1)
Grampian Don Estuary, adult or first-summer, 18th-19th August, photographed (D. J. Bain, K. D. Shaw, G. Smith *et al.*) (plate 43).

(Southern Russia east to Mongolia) The first since the Walney bird of 1988. Like that one, the Don Estuary bird showed some features suggestive of Lesser Sand Plover *C. mongolus*, and it was only when all the features had been critically analysed that the observers were happy with the identification.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (3, 144, 5)
Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 6th October to 2nd December, trapped 7th October (P. J. Donnelly, A. E. Duncan *et al.*); first-winter, 3rd-4th November, trapped 3rd (D. Patterson *et al.*).
Scilly St Agnes, juvenile, 26th September to 16th October, photographed (per W. H. Wagstaff) (plate 41).
Shetland Pool of Virkie, Quendale and Ringasta, juvenile, 9th-27th October (P. M. Ellis, M. Mellor, D. Suddaby *et al.*). Loch of Spiggie and Ringasta, juvenile, 20th October to 3rd November (P. M. Ellis, J. D. Okill, G. W. Petrie *et al.*).

(Arctic North America and extreme Northeast Asia) Unfortunately, many of the reports of this species are still in circulation. The first North Ronaldsay individual is one of the longest-stayers on record, as well as being the first to be ringed in Britain, and was rapidly followed by a second record from the same island.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (3, 13, 2)
Norfolk Cley and Blakeney, juvenile, 3rd-6th December (R. Aberdein, S. J. M. Gantlett, M. A. Wilkins *et al.*).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, adult, 14th July to 9th August (P. J. Donnelly, M. Gray, E. R. Meek *et al.*).
1990 Lancashire Pilling, adult, 22nd July to at least 6th August, photographed (D. Jackson, M. Jones, P. G. D. Morgan *et al.*).

(North and Northeast Asia) A number of records of this species are still in circulation. The pattern of adults appearing in July seems to be well established, although not all 'Lesser Golden Plovers' appearing at this time are *P. fulva*, as there are several well-documented records of American Golden Plover *P. dominica* in the summer months. In Europe, records of Pacific Golden Plovers in 1991 ranged from 12th May to 25th June, and then two juveniles in the Netherlands in September. This, plus the juvenile in December, suggests that this species is being overlooked in the autumn.

American or Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica/P. fulva* (6, 159, 8)
Norfolk Titchwell, 28th July, photographed (S. J. Hughes *et al.*).
1990 Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 22nd-24th September (S. J. Holloway).

The totals include those specifically identified. The Committee is currently reviewing past records of both species.

Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria* (5, 29, 1)
Cambridgeshire Somersham, 5th to at least 20th October, photographed (D. Harlow *et al.*).
1980 Wight, Isle of Newtown, 5th October (P. A. Gandy).

(Southeast Russia and West-central Asia) Whilst the photographs of the first individual were adequate to identify the species, neither of those reported here could be reliably aged.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 61, 1)
1989 Cleveland Dorman's and Saltholme Pools, adult, 7th-10th May, photographed (G. C. Joynt *et al.*); presumed same, Greenabella Marsh, 23rd-25th July, photographed (G. C. Joynt *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 82: plate 374).

(North America) A juvenile at Glashagh Bay, North Fanad, Co. Donegal, on 29th September 1991.

No acceptable records in Britain for 1991 yet. The spring bird in Teesside replaces the 1989 Norfolk bird as the first individual recorded in spring in Britain.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (6, 26, 2)
Cornwall Landulph Marsh, adult, 25th August (D. Clegg, S. M. Macmahon, S. C. Madge *et al.*).
Humberside Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea, adult, 28th-29th July (A. Gibson, D. R. Middleton *et al.*).

(North America) The last six records have been between 17th July and 25th August, and have involved adults.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 312, 2)
Avon Chew Valley Lake, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 5th to 19th October (R. M. Andrews, I. D. Broadbent, A. J. Musgrove *et al.*).
Western Isles North Bay, South Uist, juvenile, 1st-3rd October (P. R. Boyer, T. J. Dix).
1985 Norfolk Titchwell, adult, 31st August, 1st, 5th September (*Brit. Birds* 79: 545), same, Holme, intermittently, 4th-22nd September (W. J. A. Boyd, V. Eve *et al.*).
1990 Cleveland Saltholme Pool and Greatham Creek, adult, 23rd July to 3rd August, photographed (B. J. K. Caswell, G. C. Joynt *et al.*) (plate 225); presumed same as Tyne & Wear individual below.
1990 Scilly St Mary's, adult, 29th August (D. J. D. Hickman *et al.*).
1990 Tyne & Wear Whitburn, adult, 15th-27th August, photographed (G. K. Gordon *et al.*); also in Cleveland.

(North America) A below-average year for this species, even with some additional records still outstanding.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 153, 2)
Merseyside Marshside Marsh, juvenile, 12th September (Dr B. McCarthy, B. Woolley).
Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, 5th-16th September, trapped 5th (P. V. Harvey, O. J. Leyshon *et al.*).

(North America and Northeast Siberia) A further poor year, though another rare wader trapped in the Northern Isles.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 133, 3)
Gloucestershire Frampton-on-Severn, 8th-10th June (G. R. Avery, M. L. King, C. W. Martin *et al.*); presumed same, Slimbridge, 10th (L. P. Alder).
Kent Swale, 18th-20th May (T. P. Laws, M. A. Warburton *et al.*).
Norfolk Breydon, 21st-22nd May (P. R. Allard *et al.*).
1990 Cheshire Inner Marsh Farm, 8th-13th May (I. Higginson, W. Roberts, Dr J. E. & M. G. Turner).
1990 Cleveland Greatham Creek, 23rd June, photographed (J. Grieveson, G. C. Joynt *et al.*).

(North Eurasia) The worst year for this species since 1981. Spring 1991 was, however, a bad time here for all Scandinavian and North Russian birds.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* (1, 22, 1)
1990 Kent Cliffe, adult, 11th-22nd July, trapped 13th (P. Larkin, A. Petty *et al.*), probably same as 1990 Suffolk individual (*Brit. Birds* 84: 471).

(North America) A juvenile at Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, on 19th September was the only record for 1991.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 66, 2)
Norfolk Welney, 6th September (J. B. Kemp *et al.*).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, 30th October (P. J. Donnelly, D. Patterson *et al.*).
1989 Dorset Stanpit Marsh, 25th August (M. Reid).

(Northeast Europe and Northwest Asia) There has been a trend towards better descriptions and multi-observer records of this difficult species in the past few years. The critical features were noted in the 1988 report *(Brit. Birds* 82: 525).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 151, 1)
Kent See 1990 Kent below.
Lothian Aberlady, adult, 12th-13th May (P. R. Gordon *et al.*).
1990 Cornwall Crows-an-Wra, juvenile, 26th-27th September (R. E. Danson).
1990 Kent Dungeness, 2nd December to 19th January 1991 (R. R. Thompson, G. Thomson *et al.*).
1990 Somerset West Sedgemoor, 15th to at least 16th October (J. Leece, J. Porter); probably same, Durleigh Reservoir, 18th-23rd (B. D. Gibbs *et al.*).

(North America and Northeast Siberia) Only a small proportion of records are in spring. The poorest year since 1972.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 27, 1)

(North America) A juvenile on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 18th September, but no records from Britain.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 60, 1)
Kent Elmley, 24th-29th April, photographed (M. C. Buckland, D. Hennessey *et al.*).
1990 Clwyd Oakenholt Marsh, 7th May (I. Higginson, F. Linch, Dr R. J. Raines).

(Southeast Europe, West and East Asia) The numbers of this elegant wader fluctuate from year to year, but Elmley is establishing itself as the premier spot in Britain. The year 1990 was particularly good, and there are further records still under consideration.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 175, 5)
Orkney Loch of Tankerness, juvenile, 15th September (K. E. Hague).
1990 Dyfed Kidwelly Marsh, first-winter, 27th September to 18th November, photographed (F. B. Jenkins *et al.*).

(North America) In Ireland, Co. Cork had four records, with a juvenile on Cape Clear Island on 25th-28th August (plate 226) and singles at Youghal, Kinsale Marsh and Ring, Clonakilty, in September.

The Orkney record is the first for that archipelago.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 33, 2)
Norfolk Wissington, 1st-4th June (C. Donner *et al.*).
Northumberland Blyth Estuary, adult, since 1990 to 5th January (*Brit. Birds* 84: 473).
Shetland Mid Yell Voe, Yell, ♂, song heard, 25th May (G. W. Allison *et al.*).
1990 Northumberland Cresswell Pond, adult, 17th August (Miss W. A. Kelly), presumed same as Blyth individual.

(Northeast Europe and Siberia) The Northumbrian Terek sneaks into a third year's report, but disappeared in a particularly nasty spell of cold weather that could have signalled a permanent end to this bird's tenure at Blyth. The Shetland individual arrived in the middle of a bird race and gave one member of the Rarities Committee an unfair advantage over the other competitors.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 92, 4)
Shetland Lerwick, adult, 22nd-26th September (D. Coutts, D. Suddaby *et al.*).
Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, 17th-18th May (B. Rabbitts *et al.*).
Strathclyde Balgray Reservoir, Barrhead, 27th September to 1st October (J. Coyle, J. McOwat, J. & Mrs V. Wilson *et al.*).
Yorkshire, West Welbeck Southern Washlands Nature Reserve, 30th June to 7th July (P. Smith *et al.*).

(North America) The Yorkshire individual was associating with a Common Sandpiper *A. hypoleucos* and three full-grown young. It may merely have been playing uncle, or we may have some fairly odd-looking sandpipers in Britain soon.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 232, 4)
Devon Axe Estuary, 7th-12th October (P. Abbott, P. A. Dennis *et al.*) (fig. 4).
Dyfed Penclacwydd, 29th September (R. G. Hogarth, M. J. Pointon *et al.*).
Leicestershire/Northamptonshire Stanford Reservoir, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 29th-30th September, photographed (I. M. & J. M. Wilson *et al.*).
Suffolk Benacre, 14th-19th September (A. Riseborough, Dr N. J. Skinner, C. Walker *et al.*).
1989 Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, 14th October (R. Palmer *et al.*).

(North America) A similar pattern to the previous year. Most of these were multi-observer records, but, in at least one case, getting an acceptable description was as difficult as milking bulls.

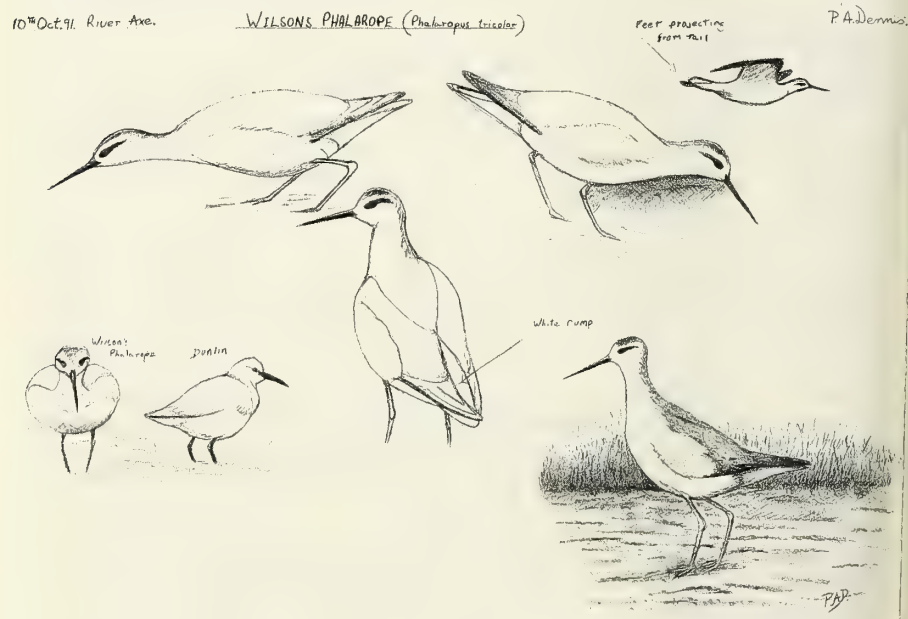


Fig. 4. Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*, Axe Estuary, Devon, October 1991 (*P. A. Dennis*)

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 55, 6)
Norfolk Walcott, first-winter, 25th December to 1992 (M. & Miss K. Fiszer *et al.*) (plates 197 & 206).
Orkney Stenness, adult, 16th-22nd May (E. R. Meek *et al.*).
Sussex, East Seaford, adult, 6th April (G. W. Gowlett, N. J. Thomas); also in West Sussex.

Sussex, West Shoreham-by-Sea, 6th April (R. J. Fairbank, R. Simpson); same, Widewater, Lancing, 6th (C. J. Corrigan, Miss H. Jacobs); also in East Sussex.

(North America and the Caribbean) Two juveniles at the Bann Estuary, Co. Londonderry, on 19th October and first-winter at Drogheda, Co. Louth, from 21st November to 1st December.

In Britain, this gull has never shown the westerly bias displayed by Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis*, and 1991 conforms to this pattern, with the first record for Norfolk and the first from Sussex since 1923. The Norfolk bird was first noted by the young daughter of a keen birder, who asked 'Daddy, what's that funny gull?' and caused him to choke on his cup of coffee when he saw what it was. Not the first bird to be found in such a way.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 18, 3)

Cleveland Reclamation Pond, Teesmouth, adult, 19th-23rd June, photographed; presumed same, 28th August to 1st September (G. C. Joynt *et al.*); presumed same, Longnewton Reservoir, 4th September (M. A. Blick).

Norfolk Breydon, adult, 30th June (K. R. Dye *et al.*); also observed from Burgh Castle, formerly Suffolk (W. J. Brame, J. M. Cawston, E. W. Patrick).

Shetland Skellister, South Nesting, adult, 27th May, photographed (N. & Mrs E. K. McMahon) (plates 220 & 221).

(North America) An excellent set of records which could – just conceivably – relate to a single individual. Some records are still in circulation (whilst others were not received in time even to be circulated).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 62, 0)

Devon Plymouth, adult, 7th January to 24th February (V. R. Tucker *et al.*); presumed same, Plym Estuary area, 24th April to 7th May (R. W. White *et al.*).

Merseyside Seaforth and New Brighton, adult, intermittently 20th March to 20th April (C. Kehoe *et al.*) (plate 222), presumed one or other April 1990 individuals (*Brit. Birds* 84: 475).

1990 Cornwall St John's Lake and Millbrook, to 9th September (*Brit. Birds* 84: 474), to 23rd (S. C. Madge).

(North America) Presumably the Merseyside record relates to one of the 1990 adults, whilst the Devon record probably relates to the second-winter bird from the same area in 1990.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (0, 613, –)

1987 Dyfed Aberystwyth, adult, 20th December (H. W. Roderick).

(North America) Now no longer considered by the Committee (thank heavens!).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (0, 11, 1)

(North America) In Ireland, first-winters showing the characters of the race *L. a. smithsonianus* as follows: Cobh, Co Cork, 16th November to mid December 1986; Cork City dump 23rd February 1990, joined by another on 28th February and another on 3rd March; Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 3rd March 1990; two, Killybegs, Co. Donegal, 3rd March to 16th April 1990; Belfast Harbour Estate, Co. Down, 27th March 1990, another 29th March to 17th April, another 31st March; Galway dump, Co. Galway, 4th-17th March 1990, another 13th January 1991.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* (0, 10, 1)

(Northern Canada) An adult showing the characters of the race *L. g. kumlieni* was on the Skerries, Co. Dublin, on 9th-10th March.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 35, 0)

Gloucestershire Frampton Sands, first-winter, 30th December 1990 to 1st January (*Brit. Birds* 84: 476).

(Arctic)

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (52, 186, 3)

Cleveland Reclamation Pond, Teesmouth, 5th June (J. B. Dunnett, S. J. Hinley *et al.*).
Humberside Hornsea, 13th July (D. R. Middleton).
Suffolk Landguard, 28th May (J. Askins, N. Cant, N. Odin).

(Almost cosmopolitan, nearest breeding colony in Denmark) A noticeable improvement on 1990 and there are still some records in circulation. The Teesside bird was gratefully received in the gathering gloom by one member of the Rarities Committee as it filled in an embarrassing space on his British list.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 177, 7)

Cambridgeshire Grafham Water, 30th-31st July (B. A. E. Marr, P. & Mrs M. Smout).
Dorset Radipole, 30th June (M. Cade *et al.*).
Gloucestershire Slimbridge, 27th July (L. P. Alder).
Leicestershire Eyebrook Reservoir, 27th July (A. S. Brett, K. E. & H. R. Carter, R. E. Davis *et al.*).
Norfolk Breydon Water, Hickling and Filby Broads, Cantley Reservoir, 6th July to 1st August, two, at least 12th, 15th July, photographed (P. R. Allard, D. A. Dorling *et al.*), also in Suffolk. Bacton, 1st September (M. Fiszer).
Suffolk Minsmere, 28th July, photographed (G. A. Goffin, M. A. Steel, J. P. & P. Thompson *et al.*); presumed also in Norfolk.
1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 6th May (B. K. Higham, P. A. Lassey).

(Almost cosmopolitan except South America, everywhere local) Another average year, with two birds once again in the Hickling area. Maybe one year they'll breed. With records from both Grafham Water and Eyebrook this year, and Rutland Water in 1988, this species must represent one of the best chances for reservoir-watchers to find a rarity.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (1, 4, 0)

1987 Glamorgan, West Mumbles, Swansea, first-winter, 21st December, metal ring on left leg (N. Pinder).

(West Africa, North America and the Caribbean) A well-described individual from south Wales. Two days prior to this record, an 'orange-billed tern', also in first-winter plumage, was observed at Dawlish Warren, Devon, and identified as Lesser Crested *S. bengalensis*. The documentation did not enable the Committee to accept the identification nor confidently to equate it with that at Mumbles. The observer of the Dawlish bird was adamant, however, that it was unringed.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* (0, 4, 0)

Northumberland Farne Islands, ♀, 14th May to 18th August, presumed returning 1990 individual (*Brit. Birds* 84: 476), again paired with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, breeding not

proved (D. C. Richardson *et al.*) (plate 223). Hauxley, 16th June (A. H. Banks), presumed Farnes individual.
1990 Tyne & Wear Whitburn, 6th July (B. Unwin), presumed Northumberland individual (*Brit. Birds* 84: 476).

(North and East Africa, east to Australia) The eighth year in succession that 'Elsie' (a cryptic name) has returned to the Farne Islands. So far, there has been no sign of the 1989 hybrid.

A 'large orange-billed tern' at Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, on 30th May 1989 was accepted as such, but could not be regarded as specifically identified.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 18, 2)

(North America) In Ireland, an adult at Millisle, Co. Down, from 6th January to 8th February, and one at Wexford Harbour, Co. Wexford, on 28th December.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (3, 10, 2)
Essex West Thurrock, 2nd June (W. J. Brame, D. C. S. Davies *et al.*); same, Hanningfield Reservoir, 2nd (D. Acfield, J. T. Smith *et al.*), also in Kent.
Kent Broadness, 2nd June (P. Larkin, B. Wright), same as Essex.
Scilly Tresco and Crow Sound, 6th July to 13th August, photographed (F. Hicks, W. H. Wagstaff *et al.*) (plate 45).

(Caribbean, West Africa, Red Sea, Indian and Pacific Oceans) Another good year, with two new individuals. The Scilly bird shows that not only will the boatmen deliver you to the rare birds, but they will also occasionally find one for you.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 524, 8)
Avon Chew Valley Lake, adult, 29th July (J. J. Packer).
Cambridgeshire Grafham Water, juvenile, 10th-13th September (J. L. F. Parslow, A. D. W. Tongue *et al.*).
Cornwall Tamar Estuary, juvenile, 17th September (E. Griffiths).
Dorset Stanpit Marsh, juvenile, 1st-3rd September (L. Chappell, E. Lloyd, P. Morrison *et al.*).
Essex West Thurrock, 2nd June (P. J. Vines *et al.*), same as Kent.
Grampian Annachie Lagoon, St Fergus, adult, 14th-22nd July (T. W. Marshall *et al.*).
Kent Near Sittingbourne, 31st May (D. Sydall, R. R. Thompson); presumed same, Broadness, 2nd June (P. Larkin, B. Wright), same as Essex.
Leicestershire Swithland Reservoir, juvenile, 21st September (R. E. Davis, D. Dixon, J. A. Forryan *et al.*).
1990 Lancashire Leighton Moss and Dockacres Gravel-pits, adult or second-summer, 15th-16th July, photographed (M. G. Anderson, J. W. Bateman, A. D. McLevy *et al.*).

(Southeast Europe, West and East Asia) Two records from Ireland, with singles at Oxford Island, Co. Armagh, on 18th August 1990 and Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 17th August 1991.

Rather more juveniles than in 1990, but several omissions from the list of accepted records are caused by late submissions.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (2, 24, 1)
Orkney Sule Skerry, 25th January (M. Gray).

(Circumpolar Arctic) The first live individual recorded from Orkney, which has previously had four corpses, including two found by this observer, who must have been relieved to find a live one at last.

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (0, 1, 0)
Devon Lundy, adult, 14th April to at least 20th June (A. M. Jewels *et al.*), presumed returning 1990 individual below.
1990 Devon Lundy, adult, 27th May to 26th June, photographed (R. J. Campey, K. A. Mortimer, J. Waldon *et al.*).

(Pacific seaboard of Alaska and Northeast Siberia) This species joins Elegant *Sterna elegans* and Aleutian Terns *S. aleutica* as one of the least-to-be-expected Pacific Ocean vagrants to this side of the planet.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 32, 2)
Orkney North Ronaldsay, freshly dead, 25th September, photographed (A. E. Duncan, C. Hill, L. A. Lamont *et al.*).
Surrey Oxted, caught, ringed, 17th October, photographed (P. Jones).

(North America) The Orkney record is not without precedents: previous records were in 1936 and 1956, but this is the first in Scotland since 1970. The Surrey record (only the third inland) mirrors the 1990 individual found dead in Bedfordshire in December. Of the 34 individuals recorded since 1958, 15 are known to have died here.

Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 19, 0)
1988 Shetland Collafirth, 9th June (B. Robertson per J. N. Dymond).

(South Europe, Russia, West Asia and Northwest Africa) A crofter's sighting on a roadside fence-post; otherwise, a typical date and of typical duration.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 98, 4)
Grampian St Fergus, ♀ or first-winter ♂, 29th April to 3rd May (L. T. A. Brain, T. W. Marshall, K. D. Shaw *et al.*).
Humberside Spurn, second-winter ♂, 30th March (J. Cudworth, K. Fisher *et al.*); same as Lincolnshire.
Lincolnshire Wainfleet and Friskney area, first-winter ♂, 24th December to 1991 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 478), was second-winter, last recorded 18th March (per G. P. Catley).
Norfolk Blakeney Point, second-winter ♂, 23rd March (R. G. Drew, M. I. Eldridge, A. M. Stoddart); same, Stiffkey, 23rd, Burnham Overy, 24th, Burnham Norton, 25th (per G. E. Dunmore), same as Lincolnshire.
Orkney North Ronaldsay, second-winter ♂, 27th April to 5th May (J. & P. J. Donnelly, A. E. Duncan *et al.*). Sanday, ♀ or immature ♂, 12th April (T. Leslie, R. F. H. Thorne *et al.*); 10th May, photographed (Dr A. Mills, W. Sinclair, R. F. H. Thorne); ♀ or immature ♂, 10th June (C. Freeborn). Stronsay, immature ♂, 22nd April (R. Goodwin, J. F. & Mrs S. M. Holloway *et al.*). All probably same as North Ronaldsay.
Shetland Fetlar, two ♀♀ from 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 478) throughout year; presumed one of same, Unst, occasionally, May to October (per P. M. Ellis). Ollaberry, second-winter ♀, 22nd April, photographed (P. M. Ellis, B. W. Stephen). Fair Isle, age/sex uncertain, 11th May (J. & Mrs A. Stout).
1990 Lincolnshire See Lincolnshire above.

(Circumpolar Arctic) The Lincolnshire/Humberside bird of late 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 478) certainly got around; it is conceivable that all records, with the exception of the Fetlar residents and the Grampian records, refer to the same much-travelled individual; its movements from 10th June onwards seem to have carefully avoided Fetlar.

Needle-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus* (2, 5, 3)
Kent Maidstone, 26th May, photographed (D. W. Taylor *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 305).
Shetland Noss, 11th-14th June (S. J. Brown, L. A. Gilbert *et al.*).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, 1st June (M. J. Inskip, G. J. Mant).

(West Siberia to Japan, south to Northern China; also Himalayas east to Taiwan) Perhaps the same individual involved in all three records; but, if so, it seems to have taken a leisurely pace, for such a fast flier, from Kent to Shetland. The previous record was in Orkney in May/June 1988 and the final comment in the rarities report for that year said 'Late May/early June is the key period for its next fly-through'. How right that was, three years later.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* (0, 0, 0)

(Asia from Kamchatka west to North India) With the abolition by the BOURC of a separate Category E for offshore records, last year's statement (*Brit. Birds* 84: 478) is now countermanded; the species is upgraded to Category A (but still does not feature in the statistics given above, since it was an 'At sea' record, from an offshore gas platform).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 292, 5)

Gwent Monmouth, 11th April (B. J. Gregory).

Scilly Tresco, 7th July (per W. H. Wagstaff); same, St Martin's, 8th (P. J. Robinson). St Mary's, 10th October, briefly taken into care stunned, photographed (W. H. Wagstaff, K. A. Wilson *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 13th April (D. P. Dunk, R. D. M. Edgar, N. Lannaway).

Yorkshire, South Sheffield, 25th April (B. C. Sheldon).

1988 Sussex, East Beachy Head, 27th March (P. M. Leonard, A. Tagg).

1990 Kent North Foreland, 24th March (R. Boulden). St Margaret's, 1st July (A. Malone).

(South Eurasia, Northwest and East Africa) The poorest showing since 1971, although one or two records are still under consideration. There are now 14 March records, mostly in the latter half of the month, but the trend towards earlier records in March and April is continuing. The Committee has commented before (*Brit. Birds* 82: 535) that claims of this species often still fail to establish the size of the bird and take into account the possibility of aberrantly plumaged Swifts *A. apus*.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* (0, 9, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, 1st November (H. R. Harrop, C. J. Orsman, A. Prior *et al.*).

(Africa, Middle East and South Asia) A chance sighting late one afternoon for a fortunate few remaining on Fair Isle. The tenth for Britain and Ireland and the third in November (others have been in the period May to August).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 326, –)

1989 Kent St Margaret's, five, 28th May (*Brit. Birds* 83: 472), presumed four of same, Sandwich Bay, 29th (I. D. Hunter).

1990 Dorset Portland, 1st May (G. Walbridge).

1990 Merseyside Hilbre, 6th June (D. Bates).

(South Europe, Southwest Asia and Northwest Africa) This species was dropped from the Committee's list at the end of 1990.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 82, 2)

Dyfed Near St Nicholas, adult, 2nd to at least 11th August, photographed (D. A. J., Mrs J. L. & Miss R. Nelmes *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 29th July (R. A. Stroud *et al.*).

1989 Devon East Budleigh Common, 28th May to 14th June (*Brit. Birds* 83: 472), also 17th (R. Dunn).

(South and East Europe, West Asia and Northwest Africa) A typical showing; another record, from Suffolk, was received too late for inclusion in this report.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 327, 21)
Dorset Portland, 5th May (S. J. Pearce, G. Walbridge). Stanpit Marsh, 17th October (L. Chappell).
Humberside Spurn, 27th-30th October (L. J. Degnan *et al.*).
Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 11th-20th October (S. P. Botham, P. M. Troake *et al.*).
Norfolk Cley, 13th-19th October (D. & R. Frost *et al.*).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, 7th-20th October, two, 10th-15th, three, 12th (K. Fairclough, M. Gray, D. Patterson *et al.*).
Scilly St Martin's, 28th-30th October (V. Jackson, D. F. Walsh *et al.*).
Shetland Fair Isle, six: 28th-30th April (H. R. Harrop, H. A. Williams *et al.*); 17th-31st May (P. V. Harvey); 30th September to 5th October (T. R. Cleeves, P. V. Harvey *et al.*); 9th-26th October, killed by Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (S. Kolodziejski, A. Mullins *et al.*); 10th-11th (J. A. Flynn *et al.*); 15th-22nd (P. V. Harvey *et al.*). Fetlar, four: 28th September (A. J. Stanbury, B. H. Thomason *et al.*); another two, 29th (I. D. Bullock, A. J. Stanbury *et al.*); another, 30th; three to 5th October, two to 12th, one to 13th (I. D. Bullock, A. J. Stanbury *et al.*). Virkie and Ward Hill, 28th September to 12th October (P. M. Ellis, H. Loates, G. W. Petrie *et al.*). Scatness, 12th October (D. Suddaby).
1989 Scilly St Mary's, 7th May (G. M. & Mrs S. H. Haig).
1990 Dorset Portland, 7th May (G. Walbridge).
1990 Norfolk Weybourne, 15th-25th September (K. B. Shepherd *et al.*).
1990 Yorkshire, North Robin Hood's Bay, 21st May (T. J. Barker).

(South Eurasia and North Africa) As reflected in the rarities reports for the last three years, this is a typical spread of records; the only point of note is the small-scale influx into Shetland in late September and early October.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (0, 1, 0)
1990 Scilly St Mary's, 6th-10th June, photographed (D. J. D. Hickman *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 266).

(North America) The first record for Britain and Ireland and the Western Palearctic; one of the species predicted by Chandler S. Robbins as a likely candidate for transatlantic vagrancy (*Brit. Birds* 73: 448-457). It is perhaps more likely that it had crossed the Atlantic the previous autumn. It was associating with House Martins *Delichon urbica* and Swallows *Hirundo rustica* hawking insects over Porthellick Pool and disappeared when the other hirundines left.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 214, 2)
Derbyshire Ogston Reservoir, 5th-8th May (A. D. & N. G. Burton, A. Davison *et al.*).
Scilly Tresco, 28th May to 1st June (T. J. Edwards, J. A. Flynn *et al.*).
1988 Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 14th November (P. Davey *et al.*).
1990 Gwynedd Mynydd Rhiw, Lleyn Peninsula, 29th August (D. G. P. Chatfield).
1990 Kent Foreness, 17th November (F. Solly, M. P. Sutherland *et al.*).
1990 Norfolk Winterton, 5th May (P. Cawley).

(South and East Eurasia and Africa) In the Channel Islands, there was another late acceptance for 1988 of one at Grouville Pond and St Ouen, Jersey, on 9th April.

In stark contrast to the totals in 1987-90, with over 120 records (including a group of seven together in 1987), this is a return to the previous levels of the 1970s and early 1980s. The 1988 and 1990 November records are not unusual and conform to the spread of records in the years of high occurrence.

Two 1991 records which were submitted late remain under consideration by the Committee.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 117, 12)

Borders Coldingham Bay, trapped, 12th October, photographed (R. S. Craig, A. Kerr) (plate 232).

Cornwall Near Land's End, 15th October (P. H. Aley).

Dorset Verne Common, 12th April (C. E. Richards). Portland, 13th October (D. & G. Walbridge).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 10th October (A. E. Duncan, K. Scott *et al.*). Stronsay, 14th-15th October; another, 14th, photographed (J. F. Holloway, N. J. & Mrs S. B. Morgan *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, four: 10th-13th October, trapped 11th (P. A. Maker, K. Pellow, H. A. Williams *et al.*); 11th-23rd, trapped 15th (P. V. Harvey, S. Kolodziejski *et al.*); 20th (C. J. Orsman); 1st November (H. R. Harrop).

1990 Dorset Portland, two, 22nd October (P. Coe, G. Walbridge), presumed same as 14th (*Brit. Birds* 84: 480).

1990 Grampian Cruden Bay, 20th October (B. J. Best, L. Brain, A. L. Broom).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 19th October (P. A. Lassey, J. M. Pearson); 24th-25th October (J. C. Lamplough, P. A. Lassey, N. A. Pearson).

1990 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 27th-28th October (P. J. Donnelly *et al.*).

(Northeast Russia to Central and East Asia) The fifth record for Ireland was one at Cobh, Co. Cork, on 23rd-24th January.

Well below the 1990 showing of 46 records, a return to the slightly above-average numbers of the 1980s. Leaving aside midwinter records, one of which extended into spring, the Dorset bird was only the fourth in spring. The Irish record is now the third for the midwinter period.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 22, 6)

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, 4th-9th May (N. V. McCanch, J. Reid *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, three: 17th-22nd September (H. R. Harrop *et al.*); 18th-24th (H. R. Harrop, D. J. Scanlan, H. A. Williams *et al.*); 22nd (S. M. Dean, C. C. Thomas, H. J. Whitehead *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, first-winter, 20th-21st September, trapped 20th, photographed (C. Donald, M. G. Pennington, R. Proctor *et al.*) (plates 230 & 231). Kergord, 22nd September (C. Donald, F. Maroevic, R. Proctor *et al.*).

1990 Cornwall Land's End, 20th-21st October (J. McCallum, G. C. Stephenson, J. M. Walters *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Portland, 20th October (G. Walbridge).

(Northeast Russia, Central and East Asia) Fair Isle maintains its place of prominence for this elusive Siberian skulker, but for the third year running there are as many records away from there (albeit two elsewhere in Shetland); and note the second in spring. The autumn 1990 records in Cornwall and Dorset provide a much-needed sign that there is hope for the rest of us.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 200, 12)

Norfolk Burnham Norton, 17th May (V. Eve *et al.*). Salthouse, 24th May (D. R. Bennett, N. W. Hagley). Blakeney Point, 29th-30th September (T. A. Atkinson, T. Davison, G. F. & R. M. R. James *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 29th May (D. M. Lamacraft *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 11th October (P. J. Donnelly, M. Gray).

Scilly St Mary's, 17th October (P. M. Griggs, M. J. Taylor *et al.*); presumed same, 22nd-26th (M. A. Hardwick *et al.*). St Agnes, 21st-26th October, photographed (I. M. Beggs, A. R. Dean, P. A. Dukes *et al.*) (plate 233).

Shetland Fair Isle, 14th-16th May (P. V. Harvey *et al.*); 18th-23rd May (D. J. Unsworth, H. A. Williams *et al.*); another, in song, 18th-23rd (P. V. Harvey, D. J. Unsworth *et al.*); 22nd-28th September (D. Fairhurst, H. R. Harrop, P. Scholes *et al.*).

Sussex, East Cuckmere Haven, in song, 29th May to 1st June (N. Lever, W. J. M. Scott *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 303).
1990 Norfolk Burnham Norton, 11th-12th May (V. Eve).

(Arctic Eurasia) A good year, with 1988 the best since 1985, a fairly typical pattern of May and September-October occurrences reflecting passage over the eastern North Sea. There must be precious few observers who have heard this species singing in Britain.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (3, 15, 0)
A male showing the characters of the southwest Asian and southeast European race *M. f. feldegg* was recorded as follows:
1985 Suffolk Landguard, 30th June (T. Holzer *et al.*).

(Balkans and Asia Minor) Observers should continue to take special care to eliminate black-headed individuals of the race *thunbergi* from consideration when identifying *feldegg*.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 51, 5)
Leicestershire Eyebrook Reservoir, first-summer ♂, 18th May, photographed (C. M. Husband, I. Merrill *et al.*) (plate 240).
Northumberland Hauxley, ♀, 15th-16th May (C. Bradshaw, I. Fisher, M. J. Sharp *et al.*).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 14th-15th October (M. Gray, D. Patterson, K. Scott *et al.*).
Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter, 23rd September (A. Brown, P. M. Ellis, J. D. Okill *et al.*). Fair Isle, first-winter, 26th September (H. J. Fearn, T. Ford, T. M. Melling *et al.*).

(Northeast and East Russia, West Siberia, West and Central Asia) The best year bar one for records of this species; it includes the first and second in spring. The well-watched individual on St Agnes, Scilly, in October 1978 remains under active consideration. An identification paper is in preparation by Peter Clement and Tim Inskipp for a future issue.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 91, 1)
Shetland Sumburgh, 14th-15th June, trapped 14th (Dr C. F. Mackenzie, J. D. Okill, K. Osborn *et al.*).

(Scandinavia, East Europe and West Asia) A poor showing in comparison with recent years (maximum of ten in 1989). June records are not unusual, but this record is the latest in 'spring' and equals one on Fair Isle on 15th June 1974. Once considered to be a potential colonist.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (1, 142, 2)
Individuals showing the characters of one or other of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri* were recorded as follows:
Norfolk Happisburgh, ♀ or immature, 27th-28th October (K. Bailey, G. Cresswell, M. Fiszer *et al.*).
Scilly Tresco, ♀ or immature, 15th-23rd October (M. D. & Mrs A. C. Wilson, R. A. & Mrs E. Wilson *et al.*).
1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, ♂, 21st April; ♂, 7th May (P. A. Lassey, M. Newsome, P. J. Willoughby *et al.*); ♀ or immature, 20th October (M. Newsome, D. I. M. Wallace); ♀ or immature, 26th-29th (D. Beaumont, P. Hansbro, P. A. Lassey *et al.*).
1990 Northumberland Bamburgh, ♂, 21st October (I. Chadwick, M. K. & M. S. Hodgson).
1990 Orkney North Ronaldsay, ♀ or immature, 14th-16th October (A. Duncan, M. Gray *et al.*).

1990 Tyne & Wear Marsden, ♀ or immature, 7th-9th October (A. L. Armstrong, P. T. & Mrs M. Bell *et al.*).

An individual showing the characters of one or other of the above races or of *S. t. variegata* was recorded as follows:

1990 Norfolk Stiffkey, ♂, 14th-16th October, photographed (A. Bloomfield, A. Jenkins).

(White Sea, eastwards across Siberia, East Caucasus and Northern Iran) Following the decision by the Committee to delete this and other species from its list from the end of 1990, the Committee met again in April 1992 and, in response to requests from county recorders and others, reconsidered its view on the consideration of records of certain races showing distinctive or characteristic features (*Brit. Birds* 85: 330-331).

There was a good showing in 1990, boosted to 18 by the additions here; 1991, by contrast, was a poor year. Several other records have yet to be submitted or are still in circulation around the Committee.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (1, 6, 1)

Scilly St Agnes, 15th October (A. R. Dean *et al.*); same, Gugh, 15th-26th, photographed (D. Bridges, C. & J. R. Lamsdell *et al.*) (plates 235 & 238).

1990 Scilly St Mary's, 18th October to 2nd November, photographed (G. M. Haig *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 100).

(Southeast Europe east to Mongolia) Two in as many years in Scilly brings the total to eight for Britain (five of which have been in October). The 1990 record was regrettably submitted too late for inclusion in the rarities report last year and was not, despite completely unfounded hearsay, experiencing difficulties with the Committee.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 19, 5)

Cornwall Dodman Point, ♂, 1st-5th November (S. M. Christophers, J. Hawkey, D. Jackson *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, first-summer ♂, trapped, 20th June, photographed (B. R. Spence *et al.*). Also in North Yorkshire.

Lothian Thornton Loch, first-winter ♂, 27th-30th October, photographed (S. J. Dodgson, P. R. Gordon *et al.*) (plates 234 & 237).

Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter ♂, 9th-13th October, photographed (P. M. Ellis, A. McCall, D. Suddaby *et al.*). Lerwick, first-winter ♂, 17th October (N. J. Riddiford *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, first-summer ♂, 22nd-23rd June, photographed (R. Crofton *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 304), presumed same as Humberside individual above.

(Southeast Europe and South-central Asia) With the presumption that the Spurn and Scarborough birds were the same individual, five records in one year follows the recent increase in records, makes 1991 the best year ever, and brings the total for Britain and Ireland to 27. Following the second record outside the September to December period in July 1990, the well-watched bird in June in Humberside and North Yorkshire was a surprise.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 25, 5)

Dorset Portland, first-winter ♀, 9th-12th October, trapped 11th (M. Cade, D. J. Chown, M. Rogers *et al.*).

Kent Langdon, ♂, 24th November (I. P. Hodgson, M. Stephenson *et al.*).

Lancashire Fleetwood, ♀, 5th-19th November, photographed (D. Rusling, R. Scholes *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, ♀ or first-winter, 10th-13th October (K. Atkin, K. E. Wilson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, ♀, 26th October (H. R. Harrop, P. V. Harvey).

(North Africa, Northwest Arabia, east to Mongolia) These five records (equalling those of 1989) reflect an increasing trend. This species has now appeared in every year since 1984, prior to which there was a five-year gap. The period October-November is typical for Desert Wheatears in Britain. Details of the December 1990 bird (*Brit. Birds* 84: plates 181 & 182) have not yet been submitted to the Committee.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (29, 15, 0)
1990 Borders St Abbs, freshly dead, 26th September, photographed (R. Goff, J. D. Lough, D. Patterson), mounted specimen retained by R. Goff.

(Northern and Central Siberia) This record brings the total for 1990 to three, an all-time high since at least 1958. Another report, also from Scotland, in late September 1991, was submitted late and is still in circulation to the Committee.

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* (1, 3, 0)
1976 Hampshire Alice Holt, ♂, 28th December (*Brit. Birds* 70: 429; 72: 121), now considered to be inadequately documented, so no longer accepted.

(Central Siberia east to Japan)

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (1, 16, 1)
Scilly St Mary's, 7th-8th October, photographed (S. Browne, T. Wheeler *et al.*).

(North America) The eighth record for Scilly. Of the 18 records in Britain and Ireland, all except one have been from 30th September to 31st October (the first, in Co. Mayo, was in May 1956).

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (1, 37, 3)
Scilly St Agnes, 22nd-26th September, trapped 24th, photographed (C. J., P. G. & S. R. Williams *et al.*); 16th-17th October (G. M. Haig, J. Herbert *et al.*). St Mary's, 17th-20th October (R. Parry, M. D. & Mrs A. C. Wilson, R. A. & Mrs E. Wilson *et al.*) (plates 236, 239, 251 & 252).

(North America and Eastern Siberia) The first St Agnes record is slightly early and the first for September; the October records are expected, on predictable dates for this almost-annual visitor (given a favourable wind).

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* (0, 12, 1)
Scilly St Mary's, 12th-13th October (K. Colcombe, I. Saville *et al.*).

(Siberia and eastern Asia to Japan) The sixth record for Scilly at what is seemingly a typical time, but the first to stay for more than a day (a feature appreciated by many observers). This species has now appeared in the archipelago in three of the last five years – almost a Western Palearctic hotspot for the species. Descriptions of another, or possibly the same individual (opinions are divided as to how many individuals were involved), on Tresco and again on St Mary's on dates following the above record, are still in circulation to the Committee.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 41, 2)
Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 28th September to 5th October, trapped 28th (T. G. Francis, N. C. Green, D. Suddaby *et al.*); another, 10th October, photographed (N. C. Green, H. R. Harrop, P. V. Harvey *et al.*).
1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, trapped, 18th October (P. M. Howlett, S. Hughes, S. W. Walker *et al.*).

(East Eurasia from Central Russia to North Japan) Fair Isle maintains its grip on the species, but all things are possible; who would have predicted the next record (the eleventh) away from there would be off the west coast of Wales?

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 140, 2)
Gwynedd Bardsey, ♂, trapped, 22nd May (S. W. Walker *et al.*).
Shetland Norwick, Unst, 27th September (H. J. Burgess, M. G. Pennington).
1990 Berkshire Windsor Great Park, in song, 22nd May to 16th June, trapped 27th (C. Herbert *et al.*).

(Europe, Southwest and East Asia and North Africa) One at St Ouen, Jersey, on 18th August 1984 was only recently submitted to the Committee.

A typical showing, though September records are particularly noteworthy.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 30, 1)
Humberside Spurn, 2nd-6th September, trapped 2nd, photographed (P. J. Alker, B. R. Spence *et al.*) (plate 106).

(Northwest Russia, east to Mongolia and south to Iran) Has appeared every year but two since 1980; early records were mostly in Shetland, there have been seven in Scilly, and this is the third for the Spurn area on what are fairly typical dates.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 250, 1)
Northumberland Farne Islands, ♂, 26th April (D. C. Richardson *et al.*).
1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, ♂, trapped, 16th May, photographed (J. C. Lamplough, P. A. Lassey, G. A. Speck *et al.*).
1990 Man, Isle of Calf of Man, first-summer ♂, trapped, 21st May, photographed (P. Naylor, J. Sanderson, A. Sapsford).
1990 Norfolk Blakeney Point, ♂, 20th-21st May (*Brit. Birds* 84: 492), also 22nd (per P. R. Allard).

(South Europe, West Turkey, Northwest Africa) The lowest showing since 1978; almost everyone hoping to add this species to their British list in 1991 will have been disappointed. The average number of records since 1970 has been ten a year, with a maximum of 32 in 1988.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 23, 1)
Norfolk Muckleburgh Hill, ♂, metal ring on left leg, 27th April (S. J. M. Gantlett, B. Ram *et al.*).
1990 Cornwall The Lizard, ♂, 18th-26th March (B. Cave, A. R. Pay *et al.*).

(South Europe, Middle East and North Africa) The total for 1990 now moves to five and equals 1988 as the best year for records of this species. The first March record in 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 492) cannot have been far from the second at the same time, also in Cornwall: a small arrival? The Committee would be interested in hearing from anyone with knowledge of where the Norfolk individual might have been ringed.

Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* (0, 5, 1)
Wight, Isle of Bembridge, 27th October to 9th November, trapped 27th, photographed (J. C. Gloyn, J. High *et al.*) (plate 104).

(Middle East, Central Asia and Northwest Sahara) The sixth for Britain and the second record for the Isle of Wight, and very close to the previous occurrence in October 1988; all records have been in the period 20th Octo-

ber to 2nd January. Details of the individuals in Humberside and Kent have only recently been submitted and are still in circulation around the Committee.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 187, 9)
Grampian, Collieston, first-winter, 1st-2nd September (I. M. Phillipps, S. A. Reeves *et al.*).
Kent Dungeness, in song, 20th June (D. Boyle *et al.*).
Norfolk Horsey, 14th August (G. P. Catley). Blakeney Point, 1st September (A. M. Stoddart *et al.*).
Northumberland Farne Islands, 22nd August (G. W. Dodds, R. A. Yaxley *et al.*).
Shetland Fetlar, 10th June (G. W. Allison, I. D. Bullock, A. Stanbury *et al.*). Fair Isle, first-winter, 25th August to 2nd September, trapped 25th (R. Crofton, P. V. Harvey, W. R. Stewart-Jones *et al.*). Whalsay, 17th September (J. L. Irvine, Dr B. Marshall).
Yorkshire, North Filey, trapped, 10th October (T. L. Hobson).
1989 Cleveland Hartlepool, 31st August (*Brit. Birds* 83: 483), finder was M. J. Gee (not Gill).
1990 Norfolk Holme, 8th September (D. Hamps, G. F. Hibberd *et al.*).

(Eurasia, east from Northern Germany) A typical spread of records from Shetland down the East Coast to Kent. How long before a singing individual in June stays long enough to attract a female? It must have been nice to be on Whalsay on 17th September (see also Arctic Warbler *P. borealis*).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 144, 6)
Cleveland Hartlepool, 31st August to 2nd September, photographed (M. J. Gee *et al.*).
Orkney Holm, first-winter, 16th-20th September, trapped 16th (R. G. Adam *et al.*).
Shetland Fair Isle, two, 12th September, first-winter, trapped (J. M. & R. G. Bayldon, P. V. Harvey *et al.*). Sumburgh, 17th September, trapped, photographed (P. M. Ellis, K. Osborn *et al.*). Whalsay, trapped, 17th September (J. L. Irvine, Dr B. Marshall).

(Northern Fenno-Scandia east to Alaska) A good year in comparison with recent years, but well below the 1981 maximum of 17. The Cleveland bird was at the same site and on the same date as a Greenish Warbler two years previously, bettered only by the one on Whalsay on 17th September in the same bush and at the same time as a Greenish Warbler.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (3, 540, –)
1990 Devon Hallsands Ley, trapped, 20th October, photographed (A. D. & J. Evans). East Soar, 1st November (R. Burridge, A. C. Cole *et al.*).
1990 Humberside Spurn, 21st October (T. Dixon, M. G. Neal), presumed same as Kilnsea, 20th (*Brit. Birds* 84: 494).
1990 Sussex, East Beachy Head, 10th November (G. W. Gowlett).
1990 Tyne & Wear Marsden, 21st October (B. S. Bates *et al.*). Whitburn, 21st October, photographed (J. P. Cook *et al.*).

(Central, East and South Asia) These records take the 1990 total to 34. The species was removed from the Committee's list at the end of 1990.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 105, 16)
Cleveland South Gare, 12th-14th October, photographed (N. A. Preston *et al.*).
Devon Prawle Point, trapped, 10th November, photographed (A. K. Searle, N. L. Trigg).
Fife Isle of May, trapped, 10th October, photographed (J. Calladine, Dr J. D. Wilson *et al.*).
Humberside Spurn, 9th October (M. Sherwin); trapped, 15th October (J. Cudworth, M. T. Stoyle *et al.*). Grimston, trapped, 12th October, photographed (S. G. Wilson).
Kent Sandwich Bay, first-winter, trapped, 5th October, photographed (K. B. Ellis, S. D. Stansfield). Dungeness, first-winter, trapped, 9th October (D. Boyle, K. & R. Palmer, D. Walker *et al.*).
Scilly St Mary's, 21st-23rd October (K. Arber, B. J. Small *et al.*).
Shetland Out Skerries, first-winter, trapped, 10th October, found dead, 11th (Dr B. Marshall, D. Suddaby, E. Tait *et al.*), skin retained by D. Suddaby. Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped but not





230 & 231. Above, first-winter Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*, Skaw, Unst, Shetland, September 1991 (*R. Proctor*)



232. Right, Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, Coldingham Bay, Borders, October 1991 (*A. Kerr*)

233. Below, Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, St Agnes, Scilly, October 1991 (*David M. Cottridge/Avian Photos*)







234 & 237. Top, first-winter male Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*, Thornton Loch, Lothian, October 1991 (*Alan Brown*)

235 & 238. Centre, Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*, Gugh, Scilly, October 1991 (*left, David M. Cottridge/Avian Photos; right, S. L. Satchell*)

236 & 239. Bottom, Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, St Mary's, Scilly, October 1991 (*David M. Cottridge/Avian Photos*)



THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



ENGLAND
BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading. Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd; Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hannington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS
GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND
CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND
ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports
Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the countr

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 7 Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

arl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved world wide reputation for excellence.

In their latest Binocular Survey, the ers of the universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ZEISS
Germany Carl Z
(D



FIELD DAYS

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Any entrance or parking fees refunded with purchase. Repairs can also be handed in.
★ **10.00 am to 4.00 pm** ★

★ **Hanningfield Reservoir**
off the A130 north of Basildon, Essex on **Sunday 11th October** (near fishing lodge).

★ **Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve**
on the B2145 into Selsey, West Sussex, on **Sundays 27th September and 25th October.**

★ **Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve**
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball station on **Sundays 4th October and 1st November.**

★ **Bough Beach Nature Reserve/Reservoir**
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 18th October and 15th November.**

★ **Bewl Water**
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 27th September and 25th October.**

★ **Alton Water**
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 29th November.**

★ **College Lake Wildlife Centre**
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the overlook hide on **18th October and 8th November.**

★ **Durlston Country Park**
off the A351 near Swanage, Dorset. In the visitor centre on **Sunday 4th October.**

★ **Slimbridge, Glos**
(off M5) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Saturdays 10th October and 21st November.**

★ **N.T. Wicken Fen**
off the A1123, north-east of Cambridge. In the visitor centre on **Sunday 8th November.**

★ **Dinton Pastures Country Park**
near Reading (M4, A329(M) Woodley turnoff) and then A329 to Winnersh and Winnersh Station (B3030) on **Sunday 22nd November** in the Loddon Room

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

DISCOUNTS 5%, 10%, 15% ...

on selected items ...
As always, we will match or beat our competitor's prices — without diminishing our service — and continue to include free items!

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports**
 including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit**
 (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

Access

(D192)

Some examples of our stocks:

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL TELESCOPES — ask for details

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
800mm RA mirror lens kit	299
SWAROVSKI	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
10 x 42 SLC (NEW)	571
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	199
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	239
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	255
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	649
SWIFT	
7 x 35 roof prism	329
8½ x 44 HR5 Audubon	239
FUJINON	
8 x 40 BFL	179
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II 20 x 60	304
Fieldscope II 20–45 x 60	379
ED II 20 x 60 *	555
ED II 20–45 x 60 *	629
30x, 40x or box eyepieces	65
20-45x eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
* FREE WITH SCOPE *	
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA	
TSN-1 (45°) body	316
TSN-2 body	316
TSN-3 body	636
TSN-4 body	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	219
TS 602 scope body (45°)	199
27x (WA) eyepiece	94
20x (WA) eyepiece	64
25x (WA)	54
20-60x zoom	109
Case	22
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope body	149
25x eyepiece	30
27x (WA) eyepiece	64
OPTOLYTH	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
20-60x zoom EP	72
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15

SPECIAL OFFER

KESTREL ED WATERPROOF SCOPES:

20 X 60 EDS	~~£350~~	**£280**
30 X 60 ED	~~£300~~	**£290**

TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Slik 444 'Sport'	79
Slik 'Shogun'	99
Manfrotto 144B/200	105
Manfrotto 190B/200	93
Manfrotto 290B/200	95
Soligor	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps, from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

Bird Illustrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Kowa Telescopes

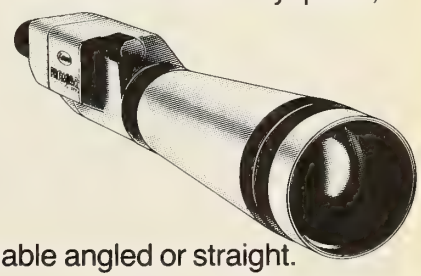


ed-breasted Mergansers displaying. Nik Borrow's award winning 1990 BIY Competition entry.

"First, and most important, this telescope is optically magnificent, with phenomenal clarity and a superbly large field of view.

If you are a birder who is seeking the best possible telescope . . . the optical gain is significant, especially in the worst viewing conditions. It is an elite instrument, to be treasured by those fortunate enough to own one."

Dr J T R Sharrock, testing the Kowa TSN-3 with ×20W eyepiece, British Birds June 1990.



Kowa TSN Fluorite lens scope, available angled or straight.

Kowa A superb image

fficially appointed distributor for Kowa Telescopes
ser-SGI Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HA (D915

The Best Buys and the Brightest...



Value and quality are two reasons *Wildlife* and *Bird Watching* rated these Nikon Binoculars and Fieldscopes among the best in their classes. For instance, *Bird Watching* awarded the Nikon 8×30ECF WF binoculars a full five stars, their highest value-for-money rating. What's more, they acclaimed the 8×30s "Excellent in every way optically—very sharp and bright."* That's because they share the Nikon heritage of optical excellence. So take a look through the leaders today.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

*By courtesy of EMAP Pursuit Ltd.: Quoted from an article BEST BUYS IN BINOCULARS, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, May 1990. And, BEST BUYS IN TELESCOPES, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Bird Watching*, June 1990.

By courtesy of BBC Publications; JUST THE BEST, by Chris Harbard and Ian Dawson, *Wildlife*, March 198 Fieldscope II, Fieldscope EDII and 8 x 30 ECF have been recommended by *British Birds*.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON U.K. LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584

Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

(D145)











240. Above, first-summer male Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, Eyebrook Reservoir, Leicestershire, May 1991 (*M. Cross*)

241. Left, first-winter Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, Spurn, Humberside, October 1991 (*W. Aspin*)

242. Below, Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear, October 1991 (*G .P. Bull*)



ringed, 10th October (P. V. Harvey, P. A. Maker, S. Rogers *et al.*). Kergord, first-winter, 11th-12th October, trapped 12th (C. Donald, P. Sclater *et al.*).
Suffolk Hollesley, trapped, 12th October (P. Catchpole, J. Glazebrook).
Sussex, West Selsey Bill, 21st October (T. J. Edwards, O. Mitchell, D. I. Smith *et al.*).
Tayside Auchmithie, Castlesea Bay, 11th October (M. S. Scott).
Tyne & Wear Tynemouth, 11th-14th October, photographed (C. Bradshaw *et al.*) (plate 242).
1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, trapped, 18th October (S. W. Walker *et al.*).
1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, first-winter, trapped, 13th October, photographed (P. A. Lassey, V. A. Lister, J. M. Pearson *et al.*); 20th October (P. A. Lassey, D. Quinn); first-winter, trapped, 27th October (P. A. Lassey, D. I. M. Wallace, P. J. Willoughby).
1990 Tyne & Wear Seaburn, 18th October (B. S. Bates).

(Central and East Asia) A good year; perhaps, with the addition of those records currently still in circulation around the Committee, 1991 records will equal, if not exceed, the record 21 in 1988. Similar patterns of arrival were detectable in both years, with about a dozen individuals arriving during 9th-12th October, a pattern shared with Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, and two (possibly birds moving on from earlier points of arrival) on 21st; only two were not associated with these dates, at Prawle Point and at Sandwich Bay.

The Committee would again like to make the point that, despite the publication of several identification papers in recent years, descriptions of this species received by the Committee do not always successfully distinguish between this and Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus*; head pattern, bill size and colour tones remain more problematical than many claimants appear to appreciate.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 94, 3)
Norfolk Sheringham, 27th-31st October (P. J. Heath *et al.*).
Northumberland Farne Islands, 27th October (S. Breasley *et al.*).
Sussex, East Beachy Head, 27th-30th October (D. & J. F. Cooper, J. Curson, R. J. Fairbank *et al.*).
1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 21st October (P. J. Willoughby *et al.*).
1990 Kent Minnis Bay, 20th-21st October (N. Hando, T. N. Hodge *et al.*).
1990 Norfolk Holme, 5th-11th November (*Brit. Birds* 84: 495), 12th (per P. R. Allard); another, 7th (W. J. A. Boyd, P. Fisher, G. F. Hibberd *et al.*).

(Central and Northeast to Southern Asia) Following the recent pattern of good years (1987 and 1990) followed or preceded by poor years (1986, 1988 and 1989), 1991 was another poor year, in stark contrast to Radde's Warbler *P. schwarzi*, but a number of records remain in circulation around the Committee. From the pattern shown by these records, it is clear that a small-scale arrival took place on 27th October.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 107, 3)
Humberside Spurn, first-winter, trapped, 24th October, photographed (D. J. Bowes *et al.*) (plate 241).
Scilly Bryher, first-winter, 22nd September to 6th October (C. Thompson, K. A. Wilson *et al.*).
1990 Cornwall Porthgwarra, 25th-27th October (G. C. Stephenson *et al.*).

(Central, West and South Europe, Levant and Northwest Africa) Also one in Ireland, a first-winter trapped on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, on 2nd-3rd September.

A small but fairly typical scatter of records.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (0, 10, 1)
Kent Dungeness, 18th October 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 495) intermittently to 16th January; another, 23rd-31st January (B. Chambers, R. E. Turley, D. Walker *et al.*).

(Central and South Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa) The second individual differed from the one present (from mid October) up to a week previously by lacking a ring. Nine of the 11 British records have been in Kent. These two, and two other records in 1990, are the first since 1982, but several records from earlier years remain under consideration.

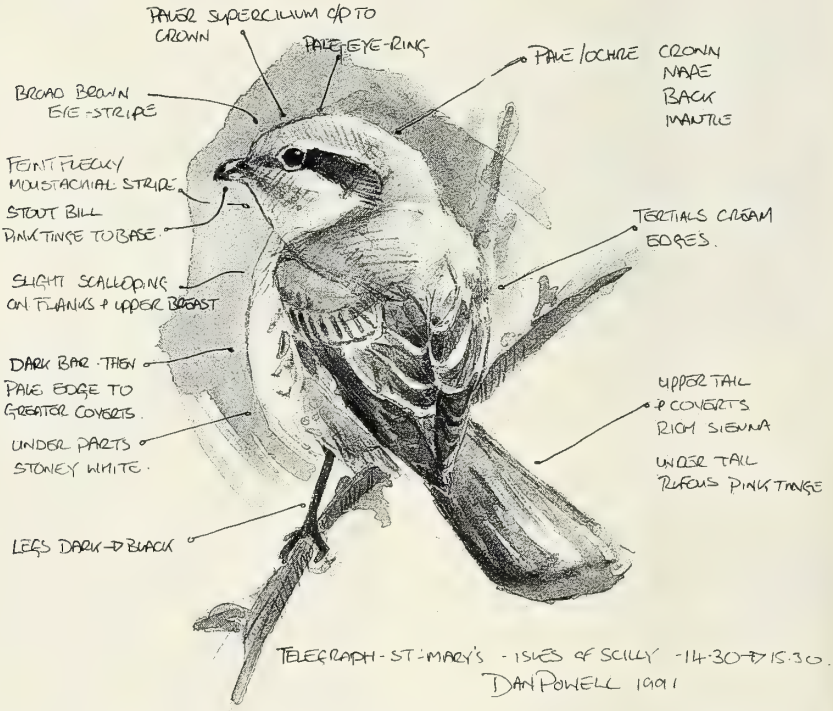


Fig. 5. Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*, St Mary's, Scilly, October 1991 *(from painting by Dan Powell)*

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 46, 9)

Bedfordshire Priory Country Park, Bedford, adult, 18th September, photographed (D. Kramer *et al.*).

Hampshire Farlington Marshes, two ♂♂, at least 27th January (S. R. Colenutt *et al.*).

Kent Sandwich Bay, adult and first-winter, 9th-10th October, first-winter trapped 9th, photographed (K. B. Ellis, P. W. J. Findley *et al.*). Pegwell Bay, ♂, 14th October (M. P. Sutherland).

Lincolnshire Chapel St Leonards, ♂, 14th-15th October (K. Atkin *et al.*), ♀, 15th (C. J. Jennings, E. J. Mackrill, R. K. Watson).

Norfolk Titchwell, adult, 9th-10th May (T. R. Dean *et al.*).

1989 Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, adult and juvenile, 1st November (C. M. & Mrs B. James *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Radipole, adult, 28th October (Dr T. Elkins, Mrs C. Stanmore, Miss P. Whitehouse *et al.*).

1990 Kent Locality withheld, east Kent, ♂ at nest, 21st April to 1st May (observer's name withheld).

1990 Scilly Tresco, ♂, ♀, juvenile, 17th-18th October, photographed (S. L. Rivers, A. E. Shrimpton *et al.*).

1990 Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, 17th April (D. Swensson).

(Western Europe to Manchuria) The comments in the 1990 rarities report, asking if the first breeding attempts were far off, seem to have been answered before the question was posed.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 31, 2)

Humberside Easington, first-winter, trapped, 26th October, photographed; released Kilnsea 26th, stayed to 2nd November (M. Coverdale, I. Crowther, J. Hewitt *et al.*).
Scilly St Mary's, 12th October, photographed (T. D. Codlin, D. Dixon, D. Powell *et al.*) (fig. 5).
1989 Cornwall Zennor, 27th to at least 30th October, photographed (D., D. P. & W. Leadley, D. Poyser *et al.*).

(South Asia to China) A fairly typical showing within the normal period of occurrence. The bird in Scilly was in the adjoining field to that containing the Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 106, 1)

Norfolk Potter Heigham, adult, 1st-8th September (P. Cawley, N. Maxwell, E. J. Phillips *et al.*).

(South and East Europe and Southwest Asia) With this record, the species maintains its long run of annual appearances.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 484, –)

1988 Scilly St Mary's, 24th April to 4th May (J. A. Norton, K. A. Turner, A. S. Vials *et al.*).
1988 Sussex, West See 1989 below.
1989 Dorset Abbotsbury, 9th May (S. A. Groves *et al.*).
1989 Sussex, West Sidlesham, 16th May (*Brit. Birds* 83: 487), was in 1988.
1990 Devon Prawle Point, juvenile, 30th September to 14th October (R. Cordery, D. Rhymes, D. Smallshire *et al.*).
1990 Sussex, West Littlehampton, 22nd April (*Brit. Birds* 84: 497), also 23rd (per R. J. Fairbank).
1990 Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, juvenile, 12th August (A. R. & Mr & Mrs M. P. Birch, Miss S. Teo) (fig. 6).

(West, Central and South Europe, Southwest Asia and North Africa) These records take the 1988 total to 28, the 1989 total to 21 and the 1990 total to 22. This species was removed from the Committee's list at the end of 1990.

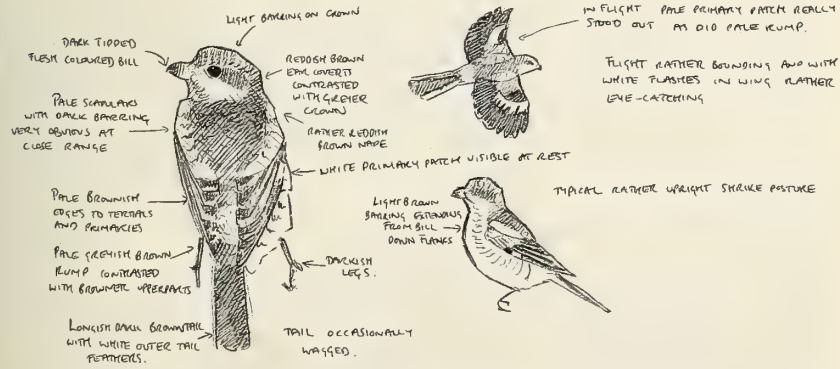


Fig. 6. Juvenile Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, August 1990 (*Andrew Birch*)

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (45, 352, 2)
Hampshire Copythorne, 22nd-26th October (S. J. Aspinall, C. Chatters, Mrs Clifford).
Staffordshire Cocknage Wood, Stoke-on-Trent, 14th October to 9th November, photographed (B. G. Allcock, W. J. Low *et al.*) (plates 101 & 109).

(Eurasia from Scandinavia and the Alps to Kamchatka and China) The first acceptable records since 1987, despite several 'back-garden possibles' from well-meaning members of the public.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 202, 9)
Cornwall Towednack, juvenile, 17th-19th September (M. J. Rogers *et al.*); presumed same, St Ives, 24th September to 30th October (V. A. Stratton *et al.*). Kelynack, juvenile, 6th October (D. Garner, S. Glenn).
Devon Hope Cove, juvenile, 3rd-4th September (R. Burridge, A. C. Cole, P. Sanders).
Fife Isle of May, juvenile, 14th September to at least 2nd October, trapped 2nd, photographed (J. G. Brown, C. Redfern *et al.*).
Humberside Spurn and Kilnsea, juvenile, 27th October (M. Coverdale *et al.*).
Scilly Bryher, juvenile, 30th September (K. M. Wilson *et al.*); presumed same, St Martin's, 1st October (per W. H. Wagstaff). St Mary's, juvenile, 3rd-15th October (D. L. Buckingham, K. A. Wilson *et al.*) (plate 102).
Western Isles Ardivachar Point, South Uist, juvenile, 27th September to at least 8th October (T. J. Dix, W. D. Oldham, A. T. Simmons *et al.*).
1987 Yorkshire, West Normanton, adult, 23rd-24th June, photographed (Miss S. Pettitt).
1990 Dorset Portland, adult, since 30th August 1989 to at least February (*Brit. Birds* 84: 498), to 14th April (per G. Walbridge).
1990 Kent Biddenden, first-summer, at least 12th-13th May, photographed (Mr Franklin, T. Hatton, M. Wicks *et al.*).
1990 Lancashire Near Skelmersdale, juvenile, 17th October (E. J. Smith).
1990 Scilly St Agnes, first-summer, 5th-6th August (J. W. & Mrs P. Hale *et al.*).

(Southeast Europe and Southwest Asia) Also, a juvenile on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 29th August to 22nd October (plates 228 & 229).

A typically random set of records, mostly of autumn juveniles at coastal sites and adults in summer and throughout the winter; the origins of the latter are, naturally, a matter of speculation.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (0, 1, 0)
1990 Cornwall Kenidjack, 20th-27th September, photographed (A. R. Birch, Dr J. F. Ryan *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 253).

(North America) The first record for Britain and Ireland and the Western Palearctic. The first of several transatlantic vagrants to arrive in Britain and Ireland at this time, after a period of fast-moving depressions, closely followed by a Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* the next day at Cot Valley, Cornwall, another on 23rd on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, and an Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*, also on Dursey Island on 24th-25th September (*Brit. Birds* 84: 499, 501, plates 95, 96, 274).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 65, 4)
Lothian Barns Ness, 13th-14th October (D. Garratt *et al.*).
Suffolk Lowestoft, 6th October (P. J. Ransome, R. Wilton *et al.*).
1990 Tyne & Wear Seaburn, 27th-29th October (B. S. & J. M. Bates, P. Gill, T. I. Mills *et al.*).

(North America) Two in Ireland: a single at Crookhaven, Co. Cork, on 22nd September, and another at Hook Head, Co. Wexford, on 12th October.

Oddly, and completely unpredictably (but not without precedent), all three records in Britain were from sites on the East Coast. The 1990 record takes

the total for that year to nine, third behind 14 in 1985 and 11 in 1988. The one in Suffolk was in the same location as that three years (and one week) earlier. Two 1991 records were submitted late and are still in circulation around the Committee.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 171, 58)

Bedfordshire New Wavendon Heath, 21st-28th March (B. Nightingale *et al.*); another, 23rd-24th (M. J. Palmer, P. Smith, P. Trodd *et al.*).

Essex Hockley Woods, 10th March (the late R. Hare), presumed same, 16th (I. Prentice).

Kent Church Wood, Canterbury, four: two, 24th February; three, 3rd March; one, 9th (C. D. Abrams, J. Cantelo). Sevenoaks, 2nd March (J. V. Waterman).

Lincolnshire Kirkby Moor, three, 20th January, one to 27th (S. P. Botham, G. P. Catley, S. Routledge *et al.*). North Somercotes, ♂, 26th January to 5th February, trapped 26th, photographed (G. P. Catley, S. Lorand, J. M. Sizer). Laughton Forest, 20th February to 8th March (G. P. Catley, W. Gillatt, J. T. Harriman).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, seven, 12th January, including four since December 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 499) (M. I. Eldridge, A. H. J. Harrop, A. M. Stoddart); nine, 2nd February, including seven since 12th January; twelve, possibly fifteen, 16th February (A. H. J. Harrop); ten, possibly fourteen, 17th (per S. J. M. Gantlett *et al.*). Bradwell, 27th January to 1st March, photographed (P. R. Allard, R. Williamson *et al.*). Carrow, Norwich, 30th January (R. C. McIntyre). River Wensum, Norwich, at least one, 14th-22nd February, photographed (R. H. Chittenden *et al.*) (plate 216). Rollesby Broad, at least one, 8th March (J. R. Williamson); eight, 9th (M. I. Eldridge, A. M. Stoddart). Mousehold Heath, Norwich, twenty, 10th-16th March, up to five to 22nd (M. I. Eldridge, A. M. Stoddart).

Shetland South Wick, 28th September (R. J. Curtis). Fair Isle, 15th-16th November (H. R. Harrop, N. J. Riddiford). Fetlar, 5th December (B. H. Thomason).

Suffolk West Stow, King's Forest, two, 26th January to at least 16th February (J. M. Cawston, E. W. Patrick, R. Tomlinson); possibly one of same, 1st April (S. Bishop, R. M. Brown, T. Kerridge).

1976 Norfolk Holkham Meals, 1st April (J. B. Kemp).

1982 Orkney Deerness, 5th March (R. G. Adam).

1989 Norfolk Thorpe End, Norwich, 25th January to 25th March, photographed (B. W. Jarvis, A. M. Stoddart *et al.*).

1990 Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 21st September (S. J. Holloway).

(Circumpolar Arctic) All or virtually all of these records concern individuals of the race *exilipes*. The pattern of these records is similar to that for 1990; indeed, some were of the same birds remaining into 1991; most records were from Norfolk, and mainland observers north of Humberside await their first multiple arrivals.

The identification paper by P. G. Lansdown, N. J. Riddiford and Dr A. G. Knox (*Brit. Birds* 84: 41-56) sets out the criteria by which all records (especially of *exilipes*) will be assessed.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 68, 2)

Dumfries & Galloway Loch Dee, ♂, 3rd April (B. Mearns).

Kent Round Green, Goudhurst, ♀, 17th March to 2nd April (R. Davison, K. Derrett, T. Quittenden *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 84: plate 179).

Norfolk Lynford Arboretum, ♀, since 24th November 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 499), to 1st June (per G. E. Dunmore).

1990 Devon Haldon Forest, ♂, 8th-9th October (R. Khan).

1990 Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, 28th August (J. Badley and members of YOC).

1990 Somerset Stock Hill, Mendip, juvenile, 13th October (P. W. Luxton).

(Northeast Europe, North-central Asia, northern North America and West Indies) Probably all three records are of birds that had been present since the early part of the winter (if not earlier, in late summer or early autumn). The

additions here take the 1990 total to 18, the second-best after 1987, when there was a small-scale influx into Shetland and Orkney. Several other records for 1991 and earlier years remain under consideration.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* (10, 380, 1)
Durham See 1990 Durham below.
Lincolnshire Willingham Forest, at least nine to at least 10th January (*Brit. Birds* 84: 500), sixteen, 21st, presumed same as December 1990 (per G. P. Catley). Laughton Forest, nineteen, 2nd December 1990 to at least 1st March (*Brit. Birds* 84: 500), to 13th (per G. P. Catley). Kirkby Moor, up to twenty since December 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 500) to at least January.
Northumberland Kielder Forest, ♂, 19th January (D. C. Jardine), probably same, 24th (P. Doyle).
Suffolk Brandon, ♂, presumed since 1990, 2nd January to 5th February (per P. W. Murphy); 11th (P. J. Dolton); additional ♂, 2nd February (P. J. Dolton), probably also since 1990; ♀, probably since 1990, 2nd to at least 30th January (per P. W. Murphy); 11th February (P. J. Dolton).
Yorkshire, North See 1990 North Yorkshire below.
1990 Durham Castle Eden Dene, seven, 16th December to 10th March 1991, additional nine, 19th December to 1st March 1991 (B. Unwin *et al.*).
1990 Kent Sandwich Bay, ♂, trapped, 27th October, photographed (P. Brown, J. N. Hollyer, R. Morton).
1990 Norfolk Stiffkey, ♀, 18th October (V. Eve *et al.*). Upper Sheringham and Weybourne, 13th October to 8th December: two ♂♂, three ♀♀, 13th October; ♀, 21st; nine individuals, 24th; fourteen, 10th November; eight, 11th; ♂, 25th; ♂ and four ♀♀, 8th December (K. B. Shepherd).
1990 Suffolk Brandon, nine, including at least two ♂♂, 20th November (A. Howe *et al.*); four, including one ♂, 24th November (T. P. Kerridge). See also Suffolk above.
1990 Yorkshire, North Near Winksley, five ♂♂, seven ♀♀, 29th December to 4th January 1991 (D. & N. Beeken, P. K. Bowman, P. V. Irving).

(Scandinavia and West Russia) Most of these records are clearly of birds that had arrived in Britain the previous autumn; the previous such influx in 1983 resulted in some remaining to breed in 1984 and 1985, but, despite the high numbers involved in this 1990 influx, most, if not all, seem to have returned to whence they came. The additional records for 1990 take the total for that year to 159 (well over half the total prior to 1990). A large number of records spanning the entire 1990-91 winter period remain under consideration; some accepted records from certain areas not included here have been held over until the picture is complete.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (0, 28, 1)
Shetland Fair Isle, 30th September (M. I. Dowie, T. G. Francis, D. Suddaby *et al.*).

(North America) The first for Fair Isle and the third for Shetland and Scotland; the second was in 1990.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (1, 14, 0)
1990 Dorset Portland, ♂, since 3rd December 1989 to March (*Brit. Birds* 84: 501), stayed to 8th April (per G. Walbridge).

(North America)

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 205, 5)
Humberside Easington, 29th October to 3rd November (A. J. Booth, J. McLoughlin *et al.*).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter ♂, 23rd-27th September, trapped 23rd (A. E. Duncan, M. Gray *et al.*); ♀, trapped, 10th October (M. Gray *et al.*).
Shetland Fair Isle, 8th June (P. V. Harvey, H. A. Williams).

Sussex, West Littlehampton, 30th October to 1st November, photographed (A. S. Cook, R. J. L. Kemp, S. J. Patton *et al.*).
1990 Cornwall Land's End, 14th-17th October, photographed (S. R. Colenutt, J. H. Ross *et al.*).
1990 Dorset Portland, ♂, 7th April (G. Walbridge).

(Northeast Europe across to North Asia) An average year. The total for 1990 now moves to 16, the best year since 1987 (the record-holder with 19). The April 1990 record is bettered only by March records in Grampian in 1905 and Gwynedd in 1981 and equalled by one on this date at St Abb's, Borders, in 1979.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (93, 433, 24)
Devon Lundy, trapped, 14th October (J. Arnold, C. Matthew, S. Wing).
Highland Noss Head, Wick, 12th October, photographed (E. W. E. Maughan, D. C. Orr-Ewing).
Humberside Flamborough Head, 1st October (R. Barnes, N. Gricks, J. C. Lowen).
Kent Sandwich Bay, first-winter, trapped, 9th October, photographed (D. Shaw, S. D. Stansfield).
Lothian Scoughall, trapped, 13th October, photographed (I. M. Darling, R. F. & J. P. Durman *et al.*).
Norfolk Cromer, 27th April (M. P. Lee).
Northumberland Farne Islands, three: 26th September (D. M. Lamacraft, D. C. Richardson, C. T. Smith *et al.*); 10th October (G. W. Dodds, R. A. Yaxley *et al.*); 12th-14th October (G. W. Dodds *et al.*).
Orkney North Ronaldsay, three: 2nd-6th October (M. Gray, K. N. Scott *et al.*); 12th-14th (P. J. Donnelly, M. Gray, K. N. Scott *et al.*); 14th (P. J. Donnelly, A. Scott, A. Swanney).
Scilly Tresco, 12th October (S. J. Hibbett *et al.*); probably same, 14th (C. McClure *et al.*).
Shetland Fair Isle, 28th April (H. R. Harrop, P. V. Harvey, H. A. Williams); autumn, five: 28th-30th September (A. Brown, R. J. Johns *et al.*); 8th-11th October (J. R. King *et al.*); 11th-17th (J. A. Flynn, H. R. Harrop *et al.*); 11th-14th (J. Regan, A. J. Wheeldon, R. Wilson *et al.*); 11th-12th (J. A. Flynn, H. R. Harrop *et al.*). Fetlar, 17th-18th September (I. D. Bullock *et al.*). Spiggie, 14th October (M. Mellor, J. Morton).
Surrey Milford, 13th-27th April, trapped 20th, photographed (S. J. Abbott, Dr E. F. J. Garcia, J. J. Wheatley *et al.*) (plate 217).
Wiltshire Chippenham, 28th March to 9th April, photographed (M. Coller, B. R. Mitchell *et al.*) (plates 218 & 219).
Yorkshire, North Filey, 29th September to 2nd October, trapped 29th (T. L. Hobson *et al.*).
1990 Devon South Milton Ley, first-winter, 3rd-4th December, trapped 3rd (R. Burridge, A. C. Cole *et al.*).
1990 Dorset Portland, 25th April (J. A. Lucas, G. Walbridge).
1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 18th October (P. A. Lassey); probably same, 21st (M. Newsome).

(Northeast Europe and North Asia) Also one in the Channel Islands, photographed at Longueville Marsh, Jersey, from 31st December 1990 to 1st January 1991.

These records fit very well with the current trend of recent years (maximum of 49 in 1989), but the total of five spring records (with two remaining for two weeks) is exceptional; the two winter 1990/91 records also conform to the recent pattern.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 139, 6)
Shetland Fetlar, ♀ or immature, 24th-25th September (I. D. Bullock, M. Davidson *et al.*). Fair Isle, five ♀♀ or immatures: 6th September (P. V. Harvey, D. M. Lowe *et al.*); 12th (H. R. Harrop, P. V. Harvey *et al.*); 12th-13th (J. M. & R. G. Bayldon, H. R. Harrop *et al.*); 12th-15th (H. R. Harrop, N. A. Littlewood *et al.*); 17th-20th (D. Fairhurst, H. R. Harrop, H. A. Williams *et al.*).

(Northeast Europe across North Asia) Another Shetland (predominantly

Fair Isle) speciality conforming to type; a return to more usual numbers after the low of only two in 1990.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 82, 1)
Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter, 26th-31st August (P. M. Ellis, D. Suddaby *et al.*).
1987 Dyfed Near Aberystwyth, ♂, about 30th May, photographed (Mrs B. Brown).
1988 Highland Near Dundonnell, ♂, 13th-19th June (D. M. Pullan *et al.*).
1990 Highland Scourie, ♂, 23rd-28th June (A. K. Quick).

(Southeast Europe and Southwest Asia) The pattern of late-May and June occurrences is again reflected well here, adds to those of recent years and further supports the theory that these birds are of natural origin; the records in April and May in the early 1970s still need some explaining.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (0, 1, 0)
1988 Norfolk Holkham Meals, ♂, 21st-30th October, photographed (M. J. Saunt, J. R. Williamson *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 82: plate 81).
1989 Humberside Flamborough Head, first-summer ♂, 23rd-25th May, photographed (A. M. Allport, J. C. Lamplough, P. A. Lassey *et al.*).

(North America) Although the species is in Category A of the British and Irish list on the strength of the record of an immature in Co. Cork in 1985, this does not alter the views of either this Committee or the BOURC that the Fair Isle, Shetland, occurrence on 3rd-7th August 1964 and that at Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, on 8th September 1973, previously listed under Category D, relate to likely escapes from captivity. The Rarities Committee is of the opinion that both the Humberside and Norfolk records above, of which the latter attracted much public interest and discussion, also relate to probable escapes, principally on the grounds that both individuals showed clear signs of abnormal moult.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (0, 14, 2)
Devon East Soar, 17th-21st September (A. F. Doidge, P. A. Dukes *et al.*) (plate 107).
Scilly St Mary's, 11th-15th October, photographed (D. Bennett, M. A. Hardwick, G. J. Mant *et al.*).

(North America) The Devon bird is the earliest in England and Scotland by a day (and the only earlier record in Ireland is one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 13th to 24th September 1982); it is also the first to occur on the British mainland. The bird on St Mary's was the ninth for Scilly and the first there since 1985.

Appendix. List of records not accepted

This list contains all current records not accepted after circulation to the Committee. It does not include (a) those withdrawn by the observer(s) without circulation, after discussion with the Honorary Secretary; (b) those which, even if circulated, were not attributed by the observer(s) to any definite species; or (c) those mentioned in 'seasonal reports' or 'recent reports' in this journal, if full details were unobtainable. Birds considered to be certain escapes are also omitted.

In the vast majority of cases, the record was not accepted because we were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established; in only a very few cases were we satisfied that a mistake had been made.

1991 **White-billed Diver** Papa Westray, Orkney, 29th May to 3rd June. **Pied-billed Grebe** Gouthwaite Reservoir, North Yorkshire, 27th October. **Black-browed Albatross** Between Stromness and Scrabster, Orkney, 9th July; Berry Head, Devon, 23rd August. **Little Shearwater** At sea, Sea area Sole, 8th August; Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 23rd August; North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 8th September; St Ives, Cornwall, 18th September; Lavernock Point, South Glamorgan, 24th September; Bardsey, Gwynedd, 1st October; Fife Ness, Fife, 19th October; Pendeen, Cornwall, 3rd November. **Black Stork** Walthamstow, Greater London, 11th May; Glen Isla, Tayside, 14th August; Cury, Cornwall, 16th August. **Lesser White-fronted Goose** Portsmouth Harbour, Hampshire, 21st-29th November. **American Wigeon** Ashleworth Ham, Gloucestershire, 5th-20th April; Swindon, Wiltshire, 22nd-26th April. **Blue-winged Teal** Cantley, Norfolk, 13th July. **Lesser Scaup** St John's Loch, Highland, 23rd-24th April. **Steller's Eider** Burghead, Grampian, 2nd November. **Black Kite** Benacre, Suffolk, 2nd February; Holkham, Norfolk, 21st May; Walsall, West Midlands, 1st June; Hastings, East Sussex, 9th June; Horsey Gap, Norfolk, 2nd August; Stanion, Northamptonshire, 13th, 27th August; Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire, 20th August; St Columb Major, Cornwall, 2nd October. **Lesser Kestrel** Colwick, Nottinghamshire, 30th March. **Red-footed Falcon** Eswick, Shetland, 15th June; near Hampreston, Dorset, 20th June; Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, 13th July. **Saker** Pendeen, Cornwall, 16th October. **Gyrfalcon** Beinn Glass, Strathclyde, 8th May; Fiddler's Ferry, Cheshire, 7th November. **Black-winged Stilt** Poole Harbour, Dorset, 12th September. **Pratincole** Great Crosby, Merseyside, 14th July. **American Golden Plover** Flookburgh, Cumbria, 19th January. **American or Pacific Golden Plover** Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, 26th October. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Two Tree Island, Essex, 1st June. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Yeo Estuary, Avon, 1st October. **Baird's Sandpiper** Siithians Reservoir, Cornwall, 7th August. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Dale, Dyfed, 17th September. **Great Snipe** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 29th September. **Long-billed Dowitcher** Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, 25th October. **Marsh Sandpiper** Heswall, Merseyside, 7th April; Frodsham, Cheshire, 22nd May. **Spotted Sandpiper** Exe Estuary, Devon, 9th October. **Wilson's Phalarope** Gann Estuary, Dyfed, 2nd September; Eden Estuary, Fife, juvenile, 24th September; Seaforth, Merseyside, 2nd October. **Laughing Gull** Cley, Norfolk, 15th October. **Franklin's Gull** Newhaven, East Sussex, 4th January; Marazion, Cornwall, 3rd March. **Bonaparte's Gull** Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall, 22nd October; Bardsey, Gwynedd, 1st November. **Gull-billed Tern** New Passage, Avon, 7th August; Hilbre, Merseyside, 22nd September. **Caspian Tern** Croy Bay, Strathclyde, 1st September. **Lesser Crested Tern** West Worthing, West Sussex, 9th May; Rye, East Sussex, 16th June. **Whiskered Tern** Dungeness, Kent, 27th May. **Rufous Turtle Dove** Tresco, Scilly, 17th October. **Tengmalm's Owl** Harefield, Greater London, 7th December. **Needle-tailed Swift** Near Lakenheath, Norfolk, 13th June. **Alpine Swift** Holwell, Hertfordshire, 18th May; Trentham, Staffordshire, 2nd July; Hoy, Orkney, 20th July; Felixstowe, Suffolk, 26th July; Sandy, Bedfordshire, 29th July; Flintham, Nottinghamshire, 2nd August. **Bimaculated Lark** Reskajeague, Cornwall, 22nd October. **Red-rumped Swallow** Thornbury Castle, Avon, 12th May; Waxham, Norfolk, 12th September. **Olive-backed Pipit** Skomer, Dyfed, 25th April; Fetlar, Shetland, 2nd November. **Pechora Pipit** Fair Isle, Shetland, 12th September. **Red-throated Pipit** Grutness, Shetland, 6th June; Fair Isle, Shetland, 9th October; St Margaret's, Kent, 12th October. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, two, 8th April. **Desert Wheatear** Port Henderson, Highland, 26th September. **Black Wheatear** Barton Mills, Suffolk, 10th September. **Siberian Thrush** Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire, 30th September. **Dusky Thrush** Hove, East Sussex, two, 8th February; Cairngorm, Grampian, 2nd November. **Black-throated Thrush** Brighstone, Isle of Wight, 8th-10th February. **Lanceolated Warbler** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 29th September. **Moustached Warbler** Lundy, Devon, 15th May. **Greenish Warbler** Thursley Common, Surrey, 8th September; St Margaret's, Kent, 23rd September; Culver Down, Isle of Wight, 5th October. **Radde's Warbler** Bryher, Scilly, 25th September; Stiffkey, Norfolk, 10th October; Holkham Meals, Norfolk, second individual, 27th October. **Dusky Warbler** Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 27th October. **Bonelli's Warbler** Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, 3rd-4th April; Hastings, East Sussex, 7th and 28th July. **Penduline Tit** Dungeness, Kent, 26th August. **Nutcracker** Sevenoaks, Kent, 29th March; Coverack, Cornwall, November; Hollingbury, East Sussex, 27th December. **Spotless Starling** Newhaven, East Sussex, 14th May. **Rose-coloured Starling** Wick, Highland, 12th-13th October; Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, 5th November. **Arctic Redpoll** Norwich, Norfolk, 4th-5th January; Pontefract, West Yorkshire, 15th January; Roydon, Norfolk, 16th January. **Parrot Crossbill** Grantown-on-Spey, Highland, three, 25th June. **Yellow-browed Bunting** Mynydd Rhiw, Gwynedd, 19th October. **Rustic Bunting** Red Rocks, Merseyside, 21st October. **Little Bunting** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 29th October.

1990 **Black-browed Albatross** Prawle Point, Devon, 23rd July. **Little Shearwater** Pendeen, Cornwall, two, 22nd September. **Night Heron** Portland, Dorset, 1st May; Sevenoaks, Kent, 21st October. **Little Egret** Rostherne Mere, Cheshire, 1st May; West Bromwich, West Midlands, 14th July. **Black Stork** Sennen, Cornwall, 11th September; Binstead, Isle of Wight, 27th September. **White-tailed Eagle** New Milton, Hampshire, 22nd October; Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 22nd October. **Short-toed Eagle** Totton, Hampshire, 27th April; Ashey Down, Isle of Wight, 7th May. **Red-footed Falcon** Dersingham and Snettisham, Norfolk, 10th May; North Wootton, Norfolk, 15th May; Harpenden, Hertfordshire, 30th May. **Black-winged Stilt** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 12th May. **Pratincole** Strood, Kent, 2nd September. **Long-billed Dowitcher** Camel Estuary, Cornwall, 13th October. **Marbled Godwit** Blacktoft Sands, Humberside, 23rd July. **Marsh Sandpiper** Dorman's Pool, Cleveland, 23rd May. **Laughing Gull** Ferrybridge, Dorset, 18th March; Corby, Northamptonshire, 6th December. **Bonaparte's Gull** St Mary's, Scilly, adult, 14th June; Inner Marsh Farm, Cheshire/Clwyd, 2nd December. **'Kumlien's Gull'** Towan Head, Cornwall, 30th-31st December. **Gull-**

billed Tern Atherfield Point, Isle of Wight, two, 13th September. **Caspian Tern** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 14th May. **White-winged Black Tern** Hinkley Point, Somerset, 3rd May. **Eagle Owl** At sea, Sea area Humber, 8th December. **Common Nighthawk** Newport, Gwent, 30th October. **Plain Swift** Scolt Head, Norfolk, 15th June. **Alpine Swift** River Wansbeck, Northumberland, 27th May. **Bee-eater** Barnard's Green, Hereford & Worcester, two, 16th July; Isle of Man, 1st August. **Roller** Berriedale, Highland, 17th July. **Short-toed Lark** Land's End, Cornwall, 21st October. **Crested Lark** Elmley, Kent, 10th March. **Red-rumped Swallow** Corscombe, Dorset, 8th August; Brighstone, Isle of Wight, 19th October. **Pechora Pipit** St Kilda, Western Isles, 23rd September. **Red-throated Pipit** Wern Halog, West Glamorgan, 26th September; St Mary's, Scilly, second individual, 17th October; Chester-le-Street, Durham, 26th October. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Holyhead, Gwynedd, 8th October; Hastings, East Sussex, 20th October. **Black-eared Wheatear** Rame Head, Cornwall, 7th November. **Red-throated Thrush** Easington, Humberside, 7th October. **Great Reed Warbler** Chapel Rossan Bay, Dumfries & Galloway, 10th June. **Subalpine Warbler** Portland, Dorset, 9th May. **Sardinian Warbler** Newquay, Cornwall, 25th February. **Greenish Warbler** Near Wellington, Shropshire, trapped, 13th September. **Arctic Warbler** St Kilda, Western Isles, 26th September. **Pallas's Warbler** The Lizard, Cornwall, 18th October. **Woodchat Shrike** St Martin's, Scilly, 3rd May; Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, 22nd October. **Siberian Jay** At sea, North Sea, 2nd January. **Nutcracker** Penhow, Gwent, 15th, 26th September, 6th November; Croydon, Surrey, 4th October. **Arctic Redpoll** Rueval, South Uist, Western Isles, 1st October. **Two-barred Crossbill** Wark Forest, Northumberland, 21st February. **Parrot Crossbill** Colt Crag, Northumberland, four, 24th December. **Common Yellowthroat** Mynydd Rhiw, Gwynedd, 29th April. **Rustic Bunting** Fetlar, Shetland, 6th June; Tresco, Scilly, 3rd-4th October. **Little Bunting** The Lizard, Cornwall, 1st May; Benbecula, Western Isles, 6th, 20th October; Keyhaven Marsh, Hampshire, 3rd November.

1989 **Bulwer's Petrel** Spurn, Humberside, 9th September. **Little Shearwater** Seahouses, Northumberland, 10th September. **Madeiran Petrel** Pendeen, Cornwall, 22nd September. **Double-crested Cormorant** Rutland Water, Leicestershire, 3rd March. **Night Heron** South Clifton, Nottinghamshire, 14th May; Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, 5th July. **Great White Egret** Hayle, Cornwall, 17th October. **Black Stork** Corwen and Denbigh Moors, Clwyd, 16th July. **Ring-necked Duck** Loe Pool, Cornwall, 12th September; Pendine, Dyfed, 18th September; Minsmere, Suffolk, nine, 14th October; Lochgilphead, Strathclyde, 29th October. **Black Kite** Silverdale, Lancashire, 21st May; Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, 28th May; Easington, Humberside, 17th September. **Gull-billed Tern** Worthing, West Sussex, 16th June. **Eastern Kingbird** Inner Hope, Devon, 9th May. **Bee-eater** Blacktoft Sands, Humberside, 31st May. **Red-rumped Swallow** West Bexington, Dorset, two, 21st May. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Bishop Auckland, Durham, 16th February. **Lanceolated Warbler** Mappleton, Humberside, 15th September. **Sardinian Warbler** Up-Sydling, Dorset, 16th May.

1988 **Black-browed Albatross** At sea, Sea area Plymouth, 9th July. **Little Shearwater** Cowden, Humberside, 8th September. **Blue-winged Teal** Lakenheath, Suffolk, 14th May. **Ring-necked Duck** Windsor Great Park, Berkshire, 12th-13th April; Sutton Bingham Reservoir, Dorset/Somerset, 26th-27th October. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Weir Wood Reservoir, West Sussex, 25th July. **Terek Sandpiper** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 1st May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 24th September. **Bee-eater** Rye, East Sussex, 31st July. **Short-toed Lark** Tresco, Scilly, 9th-13th October. **Red-rumped Swallow** Rye, East Sussex, two, 23rd April. **Gray Catbird** Cot Valley, Cornwall, 28th October. **Isabelline Wheatear** Portland, Dorset, 23rd October. **Pied Wheatear** Barmston, Humberside, 20th October. **River Warbler** Thorne Moors, South Yorkshire, 14th June. **Arctic Warbler** St Agnes, Scilly, 12th-13th October. **Dusky Warbler** Machir Bay, Islay, Strathclyde, 30th October. **Parrot Crossbill** Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, 16th April. **Rustic Bunting** Dungeness, Kent, 30th October.

1987 **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Nevern Estuary, Dyfed, 29th-30th August. **Bluethroat** *L. s. magna* Flamborough Head, Humberside, 4th April. **Parrot Crossbill** Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, 26th October.

1986 **Gyrfalcon** Dyfi Estuary, Dyfed, 28th September.

1985 **Lesser White-fronted Goose** Exe Estuary, Devon, 30th December. **Alpine Swift** St Martin's Down, Isle of Wight, 1st July. **Arctic Redpoll** Vane Farm, Highland, 26th-29th January.

1983 **Common Nighthawk** Churchill, Avon, 23rd October.

1982 **Little Bunting** Haywards Heath, East Sussex, two, 27th July.

1974 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Unst, Shetland, 20th June. **Laughing Gull** Kenfig, Mid Glamorgan, 29th September.

1972 **Arctic Redpoll** Holy Island, Northumberland, 2nd October.

Michael J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Notes



Breeding productivity of Little Grebe Surprisingly few published data are available on the productivity of the Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* in Britain. Those given by Vinicombe (1982) relate to one locality, Chew Valley Lake, Avon, where the species is well established. In Sussex, where single pairs are typically found on small undisturbed waters, the Little Grebe has always been a scarce breeder (fewer than 50 pairs in 1985); concern that it may have declined prompted a retrospective assessment of breeding success, the results of which may be of more than local interest.

Reported broods of this species normally consist of medium-sized or large young. Consequently, it can be assumed that the majority of chick mortality will have already occurred and that brood size at fledging will be only marginally less than that observed. The percentage distribution of reported brood sizes in Sussex was very similar to that in Avon (table 1). The mean brood size in Sussex has varied annually from 1.6 to 2.5, with a mean of 1.77 (176 broods over 21 years), compared with a mean of 1.76 in Avon (116 broods over nine years). Some of the largest broods in Sussex (four to six) were reported from new breeding sites, usually in the first year of occupancy, and these opportunistic pairs often succeeded in raising two broods in the same year. Known second broods accounted for less than 10% of the total broods reported.

Table 1. Distribution (%) of brood sizes of Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **in Sussex (1966-86), compared with Chew Valley Lake, Avon (1971-79)**
Data for Chew Valley Lake from Vinicombe (1982)

		BROOD SIZE					
	No. broods	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sussex	176	50	29.5	12.5	5.7	1.7	0.57
Avon	116	47.4	32.8	17.2	1.7	0.9	–

Table 2. Breeding success (including second broods) of Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **at Rye Harbour and Chichester Gravel-pits, Sussex**

	No. of years	No. of pairs	YOUNG PER PAIR PER YEAR Mean	Range
Rye Harbour	13	129	1.55	0.125-2.43
Chichester	8	53	1.53	0.4-3.75

Because of the difficulties caused by this species' habit of brood division, records from the two breeding strongholds in Sussex – the gravel-pits at Rye Harbour and at Chichester – have been excluded from the calculations of brood size. The breeding success at both sites has, however, been calculated: giving mean figures of 1.55 and 1.53 young per pair per year for Rye and

Chichester, respectively (table 2). During a survey in 1985, breeding success over Sussex as a whole was 1.2 young per pair. S. W. M. HUGHES

6 West Way, Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7SB

REFERENCE

VINICOMBE, K. E. 1982. Breeding and population fluctuations of the Little Grebe. *Brit. Birds* 75: 204-218.

Wilson's Petrel with legs ensnared in fishing mesh In August 1989, while watching petrels at 37°45'N, 10°22'W off Portugal, my attention was drawn to two Wilson's Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* in the wake of the vessel. They eventually approached to within a few metres, when it became obvious that one had its legs entangled in fine fishing mesh or nylon line. The tangle of material loosely bound the petrel's legs together from the toes to the true ankle, but did not seem to upset its balance: the petrel continued to feed normally, with its characteristic skipping action apparently unhindered. After ten minutes, the petrel flew away from the wake, legs dangling slightly, still clearly ensnared. C. C. MOORE

V/V Monte Mar, R/C, Monte Sta Luzia, 2775 Parede, Portugal

This record of Wilson's Petrels in Portuguese waters has been accepted by the Iberian Rarities Committee. EDS

Leach's Storm-petrels visiting ships at sea During the last 30 years, 97 (32%) of 303 forms recording details of 59 species of seabird examined in the hand when they came on board ships at sea filled in for the Royal Naval Bird-watching Society have related to Leach's Storm-petrels* *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* encountered throughout the year in all parts of their range, while another 47 (16%) of the records relate to other storm-petrels (Hydrobatidae) (summaries listed *Sea Swallow* 39: 37, map *Sea Swallow* 22: facing p. 32). While many of these birds were reported to have come to lights on dark nights with a poor visibility, when indeed it may be difficult to persuade them to go away, seabirds of this family and also some larger species certainly also appear to have developed social displays around not only headlands and rocks, which in the case of Leach's Storm-petrels have even been reported at islets off South Africa (R. M. and B. M. Randall, *Ostrich* 57: 157-161) and the Chatham Islands off New Zealand (M. J. Imber and T. G. Lovegrove, *Notornis* 29: 101-108), but also objects at sea. It would indeed be interesting to discover what a yachtsman might catch if he were to sail around the world playing a tape recording and replacing one of his sails with a mist net.

W. R. P. BOURNE

Zoology Department, Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN

*The use of this English name is at the request of Dr Bourne.

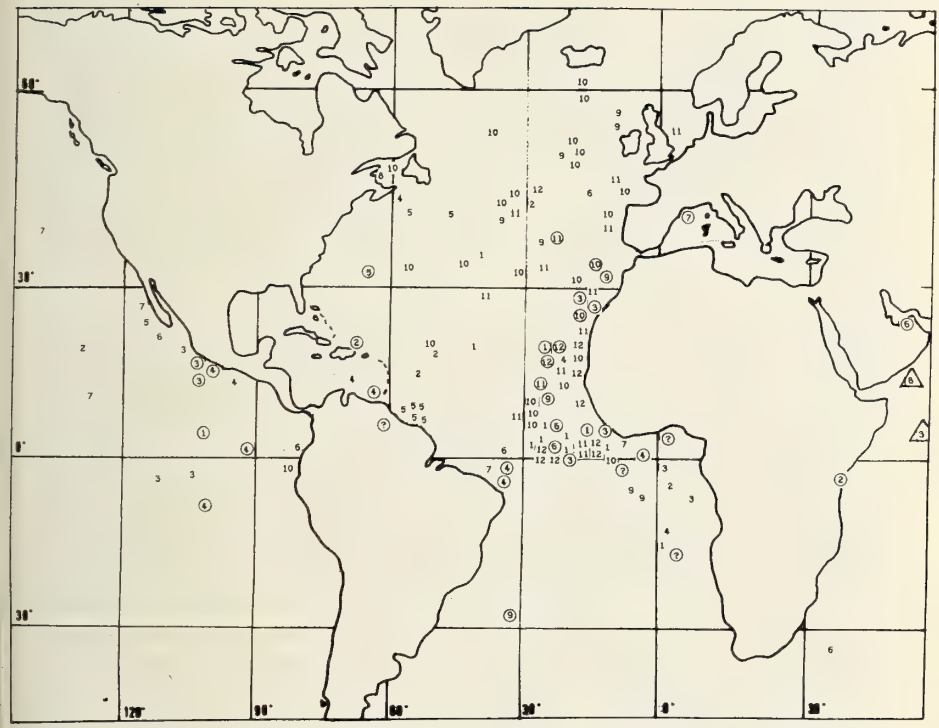


Fig. 1. Leach's Storm-petrels *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* examined in the hand. Figures show position and month of occurrence, with circle around museum specimens of Leach's Storm-petrel and triangle around Swinhoe's Storm-petrels *O. (l.) monorhis* of northwest Pacific collected by Roger Bailey in Arabian Sea (*Ibis* 110: 27-34). In Atlantic, most are in east in autumn, along Equatorial Counter-current when most strongly developed in early winter, in South Atlantic in late winter, and in west in spring. In Pacific, most recorded in east, with two records from northwest in March and August. Swinhoe's Storm-petrel appears to move from northwest Pacific to Indian Ocean with northeast monsoon, some possibly overshooting into Atlantic and returning north there, and returns with southwest monsoon, when Leach's Storm-petrel may also move north in Indian Ocean. Birds in south in northern summer may be immature

Behaviour of Leach's Petrels at dusk and night around yacht in mid Atlantic Dr W. R. P. Bourne (*Brit. Birds* 81: 400-401) mentioned the boarding of ships by seabirds and the fact that small species not uncommonly come to ships' lights at night, while E. Jones (*Brit. Birds* 81: 399) recorded two Storm Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* and a Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* landing on a ship in thick fog off southeast Ireland. During a yacht crossing of the Atlantic, I made observations on the behaviour of Leach's Petrels which suggest that, for this species at least, neither attraction to light nor inclement weather are prerequisites for the boarding of ships.

During 4th-12th July 1988, from 33°10'N, 51°30'W to 44°40'N, 32°10'W (roughly from 660 nautical miles/1,220 km east of Bermuda to 300 nautical miles/550 km WNW of Flores, Azores), Leach's Petrels were by far the most frequently seen species (estimated minimum: 80 individuals). During this period the seas were calm, the skies generally clear, and the winds very light;

full moon had been on 29th June. By day, the petrels flew no more than 2-3 m above the water and came no closer to the yacht (travelling usually at 5-6 knots/9-11 kph) than 15-20 m. By sunset, however, before navigation lights had to be turned on and when up to six individuals were following the yacht's general northeasterly course, their behaviour began to change: they flew increasingly higher and closer behind and alongside the yacht, eventually reaching at least the level of the masthead (25 m above the water) and coming to within 1 m of crew members on deck; in complete darkness, a petrel could often be seen near the masthead light. Their continued presence was evinced in two other ways: their calling, and on two, probably three, occasions the unexpected arrival of petrels on the yacht itself. The first was caught by the resident cat at 22.00 hours on 4th July; after confirming its identity and ensuring that it had come to no apparent harm, I released the bird, which promptly flew away. Six nights later, at 02.00 hours on 10th July, another petrel (probably a Leach's, but I did not see it) landed in the cockpit; and, in the night of the new moon, at 01.30 hours on 12th July, a second confirmed Leach's Petrel entered an unlit cabin via a deck-top hatch. There was no reason to doubt that these landings were other than deliberate and were not, for example, the result of colliding with the rigging. I heard calls only in complete darkness. They were mainly abbreviated versions of the longest call, which I remembered as a quick, shrill, nasal 'chu-chu chu chi-chu' with a rising and falling inflection. Both these calls and the increasing 'confidence' of the petrels with the onset of darkness reminded me of what I had experienced in June 1987 at the Leach's Petrel colony on Dun, St Kilda, Western Isles. Neither Wilson's Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* nor Storm Petrels, which were each the dominant (indeed, virtually sole) petrel species in successive, more northeastern stages of the voyage, showed any similar interest at all in the yacht. The behaviour of Leach's Petrels recorded here may indicate the possibility of tape-luring this species to small ships at sea.

H. D. V. PRENDERGAST
Acorn Cottage, Twyford, Horsted Keynes, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 7DH

Extra-pair copulation by breeding male Mute Swan During March 1989, on the River Thame, Oxfordshire, a pair of Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* nested for the fifth consecutive year in their well-established territory at Holton Mill. While the pen (*Darvic* ring number 'H37') was incubating the eight eggs on the nest 100 m upstream of the mill, the cob (ring 'DFB') spent most of his time some 200 m downstream below the mill. On the adjacent territory at Cuddesdon Mill, about 3 km downstream of Holton Mill, an 18-year-old female Mute Swan (ring 'X98') who had lost her 15-year-old mate in March 1989 was ousted by a new pair of swans. On 19th April, she swam upstream to Holton Mill, where she met male 'DFB'. Given the latter's previous record of vigorous territory defence, it was surprising to find that he accepted this intruder, and within a few days female 'X98' and male 'DFB' were seen in active courtship display; during late April, they were seen to copulate on at least four separate occasions, each time out of view of female 'H37', who continued incubating. So far as is known, 'X98' and 'DFB' made no attempt to nest following their copulations; 'X98' was not seen from early May onwards.

On 9th May, 'H37' hatched six cygnets, which 'DFB' and she both raised to fledging.

JANE SEARS
RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

Birkhead & Perrins (1986, *The Mute Swan*) stated (page 93) that, during incubation (by the female), 'the male has plenty of time, if he gets the opportunity, to seek extra copulations . . . In one case, an unattached female copulated with an already mated male, building a nest only 10 m away from the first nest and successfully hatching a brood of cygnets.' Such behaviour appears, however, to be uncommon. EDS

Montagu's Harriers taking prey disturbed by farm machinery The note on Steppe Eagles *Aquila (rapax) nipalensis* taking prey disturbed by farm machinery (*Brit. Birds* 82: 330) recalled the following. On 13th August 1984, in East Anglia, I watched a female Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* hunting behind a tractor that was cultivating a barley field. The crop had already been harvested, and the stubble and straw burnt on 12th August, and the tractor was breaking up the ground using a heavy drag. The harrier pair had nested in an adjacent cereal field, and the three young had fledged, but were still dependent on the parents for food. Within minutes of the tractor starting work, both adult harriers were hunting near it, at times approaching to within about 40-50 m, and catching prey, which they took back and passed to the juveniles perched on a grassy bank some 200 m away. The machine spent three days working in this field, and during this time the female Montagu's Harrier continued to hunt it for up to 30 minutes at a time. Apart from his initial interest, the male spent very little time in the area, preferring to hunt farther afield. On several occasions, the female would hunt directly behind the working tractor for some minutes, closely quartering the area which had just been cultivated, and maintaining a distance of approximately 40-60 m, intermittently pouncing on prey and taking it back to the juveniles. The harrier continued to hunt the field after the tractor had departed, but catching success soon diminished and she lost interest. During the period that the tractor was working in the field, the male was seen to catch two prey items and the female 12, almost certainly all small mammals.

In 1985, a pair of Montagu's Harriers nested in a field of winter wheat next to a pea field. On 29th July, contractors started vining the peas, resulting in considerable human and vehicular activity 24 hours per day. Despite this, the female hunted harvested areas of the field several times during the day, catching at least two prey items. Harvesting of the peas was completed on 31st July, and the next day she was seen to catch four prey items in the field; these were taken back to the four well-grown young in the nest. It was not possible to identify individual prey items, but, since several pairs of Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* were nesting in the crop, it is possible that she was taking not only small mammals, but also chicks from nests devoid of cover.

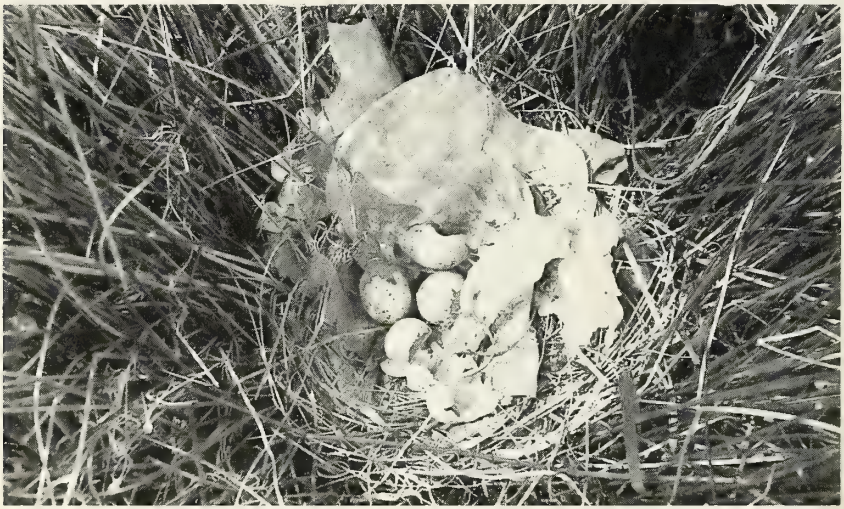
In 1989, a pair again nested in a field of winter wheat next to a field of peas. On 5th July, the peas were being harvested with a vining machine, and the female spent periods hunting and catching prey along a grassy bank close to where the machines were working. At no other time during the breeding season was she seen to hunt this bank, so I concluded that she was catching small mammals that had been disturbed by the machinery.

BOB IMAGE
26 Mount Drive, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2BP

Nest cup of Moorhen composed of polythene At South Walney Nature Reserve, Cumbria, Moorhens *Gallinula chloropus* often create their nests in clumps of soft rush *Juncus effusus*, making use of dead material of the same vegetation for its construction. The cup of one particular nest, located in late May 1988, was composed entirely of scraps of polythene, on which eight eggs had been laid (plate 243). The nest was preyed on in the following week. When disassembled, it yielded 19 pieces of polythene, the largest of which was approximately 30 cm x 15 cm; the total area of polythene utilised was calculated to be 0.26 m^2. Close by was an unused platform containing a further eight pieces of polythene totalling 0.12 m^2. TIM DEAN

Coastguard Cottages, South Walney Nature Reserve, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 3YQ

Human rubbish, when available, and if vaguely like natural materials, is not uncommon in the nests of many species. EDS



243. Nest of Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* containing polythene, Cumbria, May 1988 (*Tim Dean*)

Knob-nibbling by Crested Coot On 22nd December 1987, at Lac de Sidi Bourhaba, near Mehdija Plage, Morocco, I photographed a pair of Crested Coots *Fulica cristata* (plates 244 & 245) and observed their behaviour. Both appeared to be in breeding condition and had conspicuous frontal knobs, dark red on one and red-and-yellow on the other. They had no nest, although several other coots elsewhere at the lake carried nesting material. The two birds were foraging in the submerged vegetation and, several times, they swam quietly towards each other. When close together, one bowed its head, holding its bill underwater and presenting its knobs forwards; the other gently nibbled the first's knobs, but sometimes it also bowed its head in a submissive manner. This heterosexual behaviour, to which I can find no reference for this species, was seen several times in the course of a few hours. It appeared very similar to the bowing-and-nibbling ceremony of Coots *F. atra*. ARNOUD B. VAN DEN BERG

Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands



244 & 245. Pair of knob-nibbling Crested Coots *Fulica cristata*, Morocco, December 1987 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*)



Savannah Sparrow in Shetland: second record for the Western Palearctic On Fair Isle, Shetland, 30th September 1987 was a day of moderate SSW winds, mainly dull, but with brighter periods. PME was walking quietly beside a turnip rig at Shirva when he saw a small bird hop out of the crop about 10 m ahead of him. He was able to get an extremely brief rear view with binoculars before it hopped around the corner of the rig and out of sight. His first impression was of a bunting, perhaps a Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. From the top of the rig, he obtained a brief side view, mainly of the bird's head, before it hopped around the next corner and back into the crop. It was a bunting-like bird, with heavily streaked upperparts and underparts. It had a complex head-pattern, with a thin whitish central crown-stripe, a pale eye-ring, a white submoustachial stripe and a supercilium which was strikingly lemon-yellow in front of and above the eye. The bill was long and pointed, with a fairly straight culmen, somehow quite unlike that of any Eurasian bunting he had seen. It was the bill shape that suggested that it was an American sparrow, and the yellow supercilium immediately suggested Savannah Sparrow *Ammodramus sandwichensis*. The bird also, however, showed an obvious clumping of the breast streaks, forming a large central spot. This was reminiscent of Song Sparrow *Zonotrichia melodia*. It was nearly ten years since PME had seen either of these species and he could not remember much more about them, particularly their structural differences. Although he suspected that it was a Savannah Sparrow, PME decided to err on the side of caution, particularly after such brief views.

PME left the bird and called the observatory from the nearby phone box. He told Elizabeth Riddiford that he had found an American sparrow, proba-



246. Savannah Sparrow *Ammodramus sandwichensis*, Shetland, September 1987 (*K. Osborn*)

bly Savannah or Song, and asked her to bring an American field guide. He then returned to the crop and tried to gain further views of the sparrow, but succeeded in seeing it only briefly in flight, noticing that the bird showed a very short tail with pale grey outer tail feathers. The breast spot also appeared to be much smaller than earlier, and seemed to consist of just a couple of clumped, wet feathers. This made him suspect that it could not be a Song Sparrow.

When NJR and the other birders arrived, the sparrow was skulking amongst the turnips. The field guide they had brought (Robbins *et al.* 1966) did not prove to be very helpful as it showed no structural details. Despite lots of conflicting suggestions from the assembled throng as to the identity of the bird, PME was now fairly sure that it had to be a Savannah Sparrow, but was still reluctant to commit himself. R. J. Johns, however, provided the clinching piece of information. He explained that, whilst Song Sparrows have proportionately long tails, Savannah Sparrows are very short-tailed. As soon as he said this, PME was convinced that the bird was a Savannah Sparrow. Eventu-

ally, the bird gave excellent views to all those present, and later that afternoon it was trapped and ringed by NJR, was aged as a first-winter on the shape and amount of wear of the rectrices (Pyle *et al.* 1987) and was photographed (plate 246). It was still present on 1st October, but was not seen subsequently.

The following description was taken in the hand:

SIZE AND SHAPE Similar in size and build to Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus*, except for proportionately very short tail. Tail projection beyond wing tips less than length of exposed tertials. Wings very short, tips of primaries extending only just beyond tertials. Bill proportionately long for Emberizid, very pointed and with straight culmen.

HEAD AND NECK Crown-stripe creamy-white (individual feathers black with creamy fringes), very clearly defined, broadest at rear and much narrower than lateral crown-stripes. Lateral crown-stripes very dark brown, each feather black with dark chestnut fringe. Supercilium white above base of bill, washed bright lemon-yellow, becoming richer lemon-yellow immediately in front of and above eye, with yellow colour curving up to form drawn-out backward-facing point just behind eye. Supercilium behind eye pale grey-brown, flaring towards rear and ending at rear crown. Eye-ring very prominent, lemon-yellow on upper lid and yellowish-white on lower lid. Lores dull brown. Eye-stripe thin just behind eye, black with chestnut admixed, but broadening into oval-shaped patch over the upper rear ear-coverts. Ear-coverts brown with slight chestnut tone, faintly mottled paler buff. Moustachial stripe very dark brown, thin and slightly broken near base of bill, but broader at rear, with very distinctive upward kink just below eye and downward kink at rear of ear-coverts where it almost joined malar stripe and eye-stripe. Submoustachial stripe very prominent, white, vaguely tinged buff, with sparse tiny greyish-brown spots, the stripe broader at rear and with upper margin kinked in similar manner to moustachial stripe. Malar stripe grey-black, beginning 3 mm from base of lower mandible, very thin initially, but widening towards rear, where it almost joined moustachial stripe and heavy breast streaking. Chin and throat white, with sparse, diffuse, tiny grey chevrons. Nape feathers black with rich chestnut fringes except in centre, where there was buffer tone to fringes. Lower nape feathers grey with greyish-brown edges, this area showing very little streaking.

UPPERPARTS Mantle and scapulars grey-brown with thick dark brown streaks, each feather black with rich chestnut fringe, but some with greyer or buffy fringes forming two pairs of prominent pale braces on each side of darker mantle centre. Rump and uppertail-coverts had dark grey centres with broad greyish-brown fringes with a slight chestnut tone, so appearing finely streaked. Uppertail dark grey, with pale chestnut-buff fringes to outer web of each feather, and pale brown tips with very faint chestnut tone to second and slightly to third outermost feathers. Outermost tail feathers pale buff-grey, with paler buff-brown fringes on outer webs and paler buff-brown tips.

WINGS Tertials: longest tertial grey-black with very broad chestnut fringe and chestnut tip to inner web; middle tertial grey-black with very broad chestnut fringe becoming paler, white with faint chestnut tone, at tip; shortest tertial dark grey with chestnut band between dark centre and broad white fringe. Greater coverts grey-black with fairly rich chestnut outer webs, and white with slight chestnut tone on tips forming thin wing-bar. Median coverts grey-black with broad chestnut fringes to outer webs, and inner webs and tips white with slight chestnut tone forming wing-bar. Lesser coverts darkish grey, fringed pale grey with slight chestnut tone. Alula dark grey, with faint chestnut-brown fringe to middle feather and very thin whitish fringe to largest feather. Primary coverts dark grey with thin pale chestnut fringes, and medium pale grey tips to inner ones. Secondaries dark grey with quite broad, rich chestnut fringes. Primaries dark grey with thin pale chestnut fringes. Underwing-coverts greyish-white with slight yellow tone on lesser secondary coverts. Underside of remiges pale grey.

UNDERPARTS Upper breast yellowish-buff with heavy grey-black streaking, richer and more chestnut at sides. Each feather had grey-black centre surrounded by dark chestnut and fringed buffish-white. Central breast-spot seen initially in field later disappeared and had been caused by wet feathers clumping together. Lower breast and upper belly paler buffish-white, less densely and heavily streaked grey-black. Flanks pale buffish-white with two lines of broad grey-black streaks, each feather patterned similarly to upper breast. Centre of

belly white. Undertail-coverts and vent white with slight yellowish-buff tone. Longest undertail-coverts had dagger-shaped broad, brown central streaks similar to those on 'Mealy' Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea*. Undertail pale grey.

BARE PARTS Upper mandible mainly dark grey-horn, darkest on culmen, but with broad paler cutting edge. Lower mandible pinkish-horn, darkening from middle towards dark grey tip. Legs pale pink, palest on rear of tarsi. Feet slightly darker with pale pink soles. Nails pinkish-horn, darkening towards tips. Eye very dark nut-brown.

MEASUREMENTS Wing 75 mm, tail 50 mm, bill from skull 12.5 mm, tarsus 22.5 mm, weight 21.1 g.

BEHAVIOUR Quite skulking, although sometimes fed for considerable period out in open close to edge of crop. When feeding or shuffling about on ground, short tail held horizontally, but when hopping tail angled upwards.

The Savannah Sparrow is common in farmland and grassland throughout North America. Northerly populations are migratory and the species regularly occurs on passage on the eastern seaboard during spring and autumn. The first record for the Western Palearctic concerned one at Portland, Dorset, during 11th-16th April 1982 (Broyd 1985). The Portland individual was of the race *A. s. princeps*, colloquially known as 'Ipswich Sparrow', which is characteristically larger and greyer than other subspecies. The race of the Fair Isle individual was not *princeps*. There have been no subsequent Western Palearctic records of this species.

We should like to thank K. Osborn for the photograph, and P. V. Harvey and Dr A. G. Knox for commenting on the manuscript.

PETER M. ELLIS and NICK J. RIDDIFORD
Seaview, Sandwick, Shetland ZE2 9HP
Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU

REFERENCES

BROYD, S. J., 1985. Savannah Sparrow: new to the Western Palearctic. *Brit. Birds* 78: 647-656.

PYLE, P., HOWELL, S. N. G., YUNICK, R. P., & DESANTE, D. F. 1987. *Identification Guide to North American Passerines*. Bolinas.

ROBBINS, C. S., BRUUN, B., & ZIM, H. S. 1966. *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America*. New York.

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) has commented as follows: 'Given good views of a Savannah Sparrow and thorough attention to detail by the observers, as is the case here, the identification is straightforward. As Pete Ellis quickly realised, the lemon-yellow in the supercilia suggested Savannah Sparrow, and the well-streaked breast and flanks, short tail and pink legs confirmed the identification.'

Dr Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) has commented: 'The only previous British record of Savannah Sparrow, in Dorset in 1982, belonged to the subspecies *princeps*, which breeds only on Sable Island, off Nova Scotia *(Ibis* 133: 440). The Fair Isle bird was much darker and clearly did not belong to this distinctive race, and the record was passed to the BOURC as "race undetermined". Geographic variation in the Savannah Sparrow is clinal over much of its range, making it difficult, if not inappropriate, to assign the Fair Isle bird to subspecies. After consulting Dr Jim Rising in Canada and examining skins at the British Museum (Natural History) at Tring, it was decided that the Fair Isle bird appeared closest to *oblitus* or *labradorius* (BOURC, *Ibis* in press). These races breed from Manitoba to Newfoundland, wintering in southern USA, northern Mexico and Cuba.

'The BOURC was able to consider this record at all only because it had been photographed in the hand and measured. The races of many species are not determinable in the field or even when trapped. Where at all possible, claims of rare races should be supported by the maximum of detail, including several photographs of the bird in the hand, with a colour standard in each photograph to assist judgement of the photograph's colour balance.' EDS

Mystery photographs

181 The stout, but straight, omnivore's bill, long legs, dark eye, and general body proportions make last month's mystery bird (plate 212, repeated here in colour in plate 247) a thrush (Turdidae), an identification no doubt reached immediately by almost everyone. The presence of considerable spotting on the pale underparts narrows this down further to a species of either *Turdus* or *Catharus*, or Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*. The only other birds which may have been considered are Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*, which has a curved bill, long tail and pale (yellow) eyes, and female Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica*, which has a much darker ground colour to the underparts as well as more extensive spotting extending onto the belly, and a fairly prominent supercilium.

The mystery bird shows an eye-ring and a bar from the eye to the bill, but no other obvious head markings, whilst the small, dark, slightly pear-shaped spots below are most prominent on the lower throat and upper breast, fading onto the flanks, where they become much less distinct. This rules out most species of *Turdus*, leaving only Song Thrush *T. philomelos*, the four *Catharus* thrushes—Gray-cheeked *C. minimus*, Hermit *C. guttatus*, Swainson's *C. ustulatus* and Veery *C. fuscescens*—plus Wood Thrush.

Most readers will be familiar with Song Thrush, and there is something 'not quite right' about the mystery bird. Whilst it is impossible to judge size, because of the lack of comparative objects, our bird looks too slim and dainty for Song Thrush, with a comparatively thin bill and long legs. This is in contrast to the rather pot-bellied look of Song Thrush, which also shows a thicker bill and more extensive spotting below, being as obviously spotted on the upper belly and flanks as it is on the breast. Wood Thrush is also boldly marked with black spots on a white background extending onto the upper belly and flanks, and often shows noticeable contrast between the rich rusty-coloured cap and the grey cheeks. It also has a distinct eye-ring, even more prominent than on our mystery bird, since it is white rather than off-white and does not show the pale supra-loral and dark loral lines, having instead a pale-grey patch on the lores.

We are thus left with the small Nearctic *Catharus* thrushes and we have already seen enough to make a confident identification. The bird shows a broad, buffy eye-ring which is joined to a prominent supra-loral line forming a 'pair of spectacles' with a noticeable dark bar on the lores. There are blackish spots on the lower throat and upper breast which fade to an indistinct pale greyish on the sides of the lower breast and flanks. The ground colour of the upper breast is buffy (seen as off-white on a black-and-white photograph), contrasting with the white of the lower breast, belly and flanks.

Neither Gray-cheeked Thrush nor Veery shows this facial pattern, both species exhibiting a thin, usually indistinct, pale grey eye-ring, which is often missing altogether, and a triangular mid-grey patch on the lores which fades into the cap and 'cheeks' and lacks the contrast shown on the bird in the photograph; they also tend to show less extensive spotting than that on our bird. The underparts of Veery have brown spots on a buff background – usually

only as a small gorget, but sometimes surprisingly extensive – and a greyish suffusion on the flanks. Veery has rufous tones to all the upperparts, and bright pink legs, though these latter points may not be obvious if the bird is in shade. It has a distinctive, down-slurred 'whee-u' call. Gray-cheeked Thrush has a similar call, black rather than brown spots on its breast, more obvious than on Veery, but, on average, less obvious and less extensive than on either Swainson's or Hermit Thrush. As on the bird in the photograph, these spots tend to be most obvious on the upper breast and to fade quickly on the flanks. The upperparts are olive-brown or olive-grey, and the colour of the cheeks, upper breast and flanks is distinctly grey, with none of the warm tones displayed by both Veery and Swainson's Thrush.

Hermit Thrush can show a 'spectacle' pattern to the face, though not usually so obvious as on this bird, and the underparts tend to have a whiter base colour and to be more heavily spotted. Hermit Thrush has a rusty tail, somewhat like that of a Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*, but the rest of the upperparts tend to be colder in tone than on Swainson's Thrush. It has a range of calls, the commonest of which are 'chuck' or 'tuk-tuk'.

This bird, then, is a Swainson's Thrush, which I photographed at Point Pelee in August 1988. Anyone who decided on Hermit Thrush could feel suitably aggrieved given this view. Swainson's Thrush always shows this facial pattern of broad buffy spectacles (though it is occasionally less obvious than on this bird) and has a similar-coloured suffusion to the breast and cheeks. It has a distinctive, liquid call, like a water drop falling into a rain barrel – 'wink' or 'quilp' – and it tends to have warmer upperparts plumage than either Gray-cheeked or Hermit Thrush.

There is considerable overlap in the plumages of the three 'spotted' *Catharus* thrushes, due both to individual and to racial variations. The breast spotting is said to be heaviest on Hermit and lightest on Gray-cheeked Thrush (and even lighter on Veery), whilst the plumage tones are warmest on Swainson's and coldest on Gray-cheeked Thrush (though Veery is the warmest of the lot), but there is considerable overlap between all three species.

These differences should, therefore, be used critically in separating the species. For a confident identification in Britain, all of the following features should be noted: size (to eliminate Song Thrush); facial pattern; colour of breast, cheeks and tail; extent of spotting on the breast; and finally upperparts coloration, paying due attention to the effects of variations in light intensity. Optional extras include the underwing pattern and call. COLIN BRADSHAW
9 Tynemouth Place, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 4BJ

FURTHER READING

DELIN, H., & SVENSSON, L. 1988. *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*. London.
FARRAND, J. 1983. *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, vol. 3. New York.
HARDING, B. D. 1979. Identification of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes. *Brit. Birds* 72: 346-348.

PAGE 567: **247 & 248.** MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH 181. Top left, Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*, Ontario, Canada, October 1988; top right, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, Scilly, October 1989 (*C. Bradshaw*). **249.** Centre, Hermit Thrush *C. guttatus* California, USA, April 1982 (*H. Clarke/Vireo*) **250.** Bottom, Veery *C. fuscescens*, Ontario, Canada, August 1988 (*C. Bradshaw*)

PAGE 568: **251 & 252.** Top and centre left, Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, Scilly, October 1991; **253.** Centre right, Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*, Ontario, Canada, August 1988 (*C. Bradshaw*)



Mystery photograph 181



Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

CARL ZEISS – GERMANY sponsors the Rarities Committee, and subsidises by donations the inclusion of many of the colour photographs published in *British Birds*, including plates 247-254



Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*



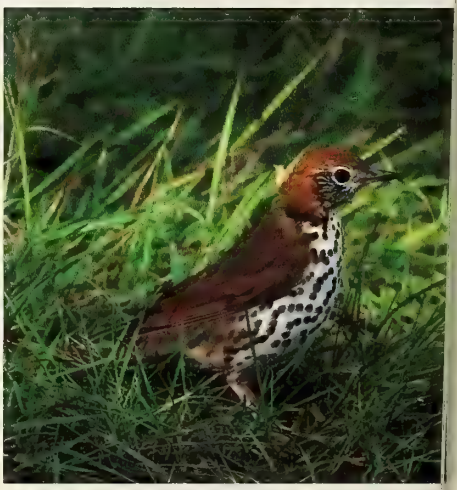
Veery *Catharus fuscescens*



Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*



Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*



Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*



254. Mystery photograph 182. Identify the species. Answer next month

Letters

Identifying Spanish egrets It is not without misgivings that one challenges so accomplished and widely acknowledged an authority as Rob Hume, but we must point out an error in his paper on the identification of the Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (*Brit. Birds* 85: 21-24).

Having lived in southern Spain for three years during 1986-89, we can say with some authority that it is not the elegant Little Egret which is the main confusion species for the White Supermarket Carrier-bag *Porto tesco*, but the plainer Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. In the dusty fields of the Campo de Gibraltar, white plastic bags abound amidst the grazing herds, as do Cattle Egrets, and it is often impossible to tell them apart. A field of white bags, seemingly arranged in neat rows by the local farmer, often becomes a flock of Cattle Egrets on closer inspection. And that lone Cattle Egret standing in the middle of a herd of cows is invariably a white plastic sack.

Only once in three years did we see a Little Egret in a field of cows, and then in a damp corner with no paper bags in sight. But in the marshes of Palmones and the Guadiaro Estuary, which appear to hold the entire world population of the Little Egret, paper bags are a rarity and present no obstacle to successful identification.

L. CHANDLER and C. CHANDLER
9 St Thomas Close, Helmshore, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 4PY

Rob Hume has commented: 'I would add a serious note to this response to my 'Identification pitfalls' paper. On my last visit to southern Spain, I found the whole countryside was so completely covered by white plastic, for agriculture, that to spot a carrier bag would have been practically impossible. The chances of a real egret, or warbler, or shrike, or even butterfly, being found were practically nil over vast areas of lowland, wetland edge and once-terraced slopes. The proliferation of 'plastic greenhouses' which cover whole swathes of countryside is extremely worrying, unless plastic sheets are all we are expected to enjoy in future.' EDS

Sexual plumage dimorphism of adult Sparrowhawks I have always accepted that marked sexual dimorphism exists in the plumage of adult Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus*, but recent examination of four standard ornithological works has led me to question this belief.

BWP (vol. 2) describes marked sexual dimorphism of adult plumage: the male having dark slate-grey upperparts (paler and bluer on some), and white underparts closely barred with rufous (appearing uniformly orange at a distance); and the female having dark brown or grey-brown upperparts, with pale underparts barred brown (sometimes rufous on flanks). The illustrations on plate 18 of *BWP* show the male with mid-grey (not dark slate-grey) upperparts and the female with dark brown upperparts; the male depicted on plate 17 is much bluer than the male on plate 18.

The descriptions in *The Handbook*, although similar to those in *BWP*, are less extreme. The male is described as having dark slate-grey upperparts, with white underparts barred more or less rufous (often strongly so); no reference is made to males having blue-grey plumage. The female's upperparts are said to be much browner than the male's, sometimes only tinged slate, but often slate-brown with dark slate crown; and her underparts white to pale buff, closely barred dark brown, with varying amounts of rufous tinge (most often

on flanks). The female illustrated on plate 69 is grey-brown, much greyer than the female on plate 18 of *BWP*.

The plumage descriptions in Brown & Amadon (1968) are very similar to those in *The Handbook*, with no mention of blue-grey male plumage. The male illustrated on plate 65 has extremely dark slate-grey plumage.

Newton (1986) stated (page 30): 'Plumage differences between the sexes are slight. As a rule, cocks are bluer (less brown) on the dorsal surface than are hens, more orange and less distinctly barred on the underside, and have less white on the head in the form of eye stripes and crown patch.' The description continues on page 31, where the emphasis is repeatedly placed on variability of plumage rather than marked sexual dimorphism: 'In both sexes, some individuals are generally darker than others, having more orange on the underside and broader breast bars'; and 'Sparrowhawks don the bluish adult dress when approximately one year old. Until then, they have the brownish "juvenile" plumage, acquired in the nest. The basic pattern of the two plumages is similar, but feathers which are blue-grey in the adult are dark brown with buff-red tips in the first-year bird.' (Note the use of 'blue-grey' when describing the adult plumage of both sexes.) The only colour illustration appears on the dust-jacket, the bird portrayed being my idea of a typical male.

We have, therefore, a situation where the definitive reference work on European birds, *BWP*, advocates marked sexual dimorphism of plumage, while a scholarly monograph on the species describes plumage differences between the sexes as slight. In my experience, views of Sparrowhawks that allow plumage details to be discerned are usually brief. In most cases, my own encounters have been with Sparrowhawks in 'brown' plumage, and, having studied the literature, I have little confidence in sexing them. Considering the relative abundance of the Sparrowhawk and the great deal of study devoted to it, I am disappointed with, and confused by, the lack of conformity found in the literature.

PAUL MARSHMAN

36 Church Street, Llwyn-y-pia, Tonypandy, Mid Glamorgan CF40 2ND

REFERENCES

BROWN, L. H., & AMADON, D. 1968. *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World.* Feltham.

CRAMP, S., & SIMMONS, K. E. L. 1980. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic.* vol. 2. Oxford.

NEWTON, I. 1986. *The Sparrowhawk.* Calton.

WITHERBY, H. F., JOURDAIN, F. C. R., TICEHURST, N. F., & TUCKER, B. W. 1940. *The Handbook of British Birds.* vol. 3. London.

Dr Ian Newton has commented as follows: 'Mr Marshman has highlighted what might be regarded as an error on page 158 of *BWP*, where the adult female is twice described as "brown"; this is true for the first-year plumage, acquired in the nest, but not of subsequent plumages, which are basically blue-grey or slate-grey dorsally. He also seems to place great faith in the colour reproduction in *BWP*; in my copy, the plates are nothing like the real thing.

'In practice, the most marked dimorphism is in size, which gives 100% separation of sexes in the hand. Plumage differences could be described as slight, compared with those of, say, Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* or Merlin *F. columbarius*, and the individual variation is so great as to give almost complete overlap between the sexes. In adult plumage, however, most males have more orange or "rufous" on the underside, with less obvious barring, while most females have more white on the head (the stripe above the eye and the patch on the nape), and some also have a slightly brown cast to the blue-grey back. But any Sparrowhawk which clearly looks brown is in first-year plumage.

'Considering the view one usually gets, I would not attempt to sex a Sparrowhawk in the field on plumage, but with experience I think one can often sex them accurately on size and on speed of wingbeat. In good light, one can also often separate first-years from older individuals on colour.' EDS



ICBP news

Puna Grebe news Bad news on the Puna Grebe *Podiceps taczanowskii*, endemic to Lake Junin in Peru and one of the world's most threatened birds. Once abundant, the population was estimated to have dropped to 200-300 individuals in 1987, but terrorist activity in the area has prevented any conservation action being taken. This year, however, two Peruvian ornithologists, Thomas Valqui and Javier Barrio, visited the site on behalf of the ICBP.

Although unable to make a population estimate on their brief visit, Valqui and Barrio found two (and possibly three) dead Puna Grebes along a 2-km stretch of shore in just three days, all of which were thought to have died in the past 10-15 days. Discussions with a local fisherman revealed that this death toll was not unusual. Clearly, if this is the case, the species will not long survive.

The chief cause of the species' decline is believed to be pollution. The 14,000-ha lake is extremely polluted by a nearby mine, and dead plants, fish and birds are found frequently. Large fluctuations in the water level, due to a hydroelectric station that supplies the mine, are also a problem. In addition, the area is currently experiencing an exceptionally dry period, which is adversely affecting the water levels.

With the political situation in the area now more stable, further work is being carried out to clarify the precise problems and what needs to be done to save the species. GEORGINA GREEN

International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

Announcement

Books in British BirdShop The following books have been added to the list this month:

*Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 6

*Jonsson *The Birds of Europe*

For all your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xi & xii.

Seventy-five years ago...

'SPOTTED REDSHANK IN NORFOLK. It may be of interest to record that on September 7th, 1917, I saw a Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) standing beside a dirty pond on the main road between Syderstone and Docking, practically in the village of Syderstone. I stopped my car and watched the bird for about five minutes, during which time it flew round the pond once or twice, settled again and fed round the edge, and eventually flew off in a straight line for the sea, in the direction of Wells-next-the-Sea.

'Though a regular visitor to this coast, this is the first time I have seen this species, though I know the birds well, having had them in confinement.' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 118, October 1917).

Reviews

The Birds of Oxfordshire. Edited by J. W. Brucker, A. G. Gosler & A. R. Heryet. The Nature Conservation Bureau, Newbury, 1992. 288 pages; 8 colour plates; 150 line-drawings; 92 maps; 57 histograms. £27.95.

The species accounts occupy one-third of this county avifauna, and a further 10% is devoted to the results of the 'Atlas of breeding birds in Oxfordshire' (by tetrads) during 1985-88. The other major chapters are 'An introduction to the ornithology of Oxfordshire', 'Bird habitats in Oxfordshire', 'The climate of Oxfordshire' and 'A future for birds in Oxfordshire'. Those are the dry bones, but in this book the traditional framework is fleshed out voluptuously. This is a large book (21.7 cm × 29.7 cm), with easy-to-read print, excellent, spacious design, attractive line-drawings (by Martin Elliott, Andrew Forkner and Ian Lewington) and an abundance of small tables, histograms and maps.

The text is not only full of interesting information, but is also well written and, therefore, very readable as well. Collectors of county bird books will, of course, want to own this one, but it will also be of interest to all birdwatchers living not only in Oxfordshire itself, but also in neighbouring counties, since trends in one are likely to be reflected in others. Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* have not been proved to breed since the mid 1960s, and Redstarts *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, which formerly bred in pollarded willows along streams and rivers and in old trees, dry-stone walls and nest-boxes in woods and parks, have steadily withdrawn from the county, those nesting in pollarded willows disappearing first 'suggesting that this was the less favoured of the two main habitat types'. This whole book is filled with such interesting snippets. Very good use has been made of the information gathered by the county's birdwatchers over the years. The authors have clearly gone to a great deal of trouble not merely to summarise what has previously been published in the annual county bird reports, but also to delve into the stored, previously unpublished data.

I do not know a better county avifauna. J. T. R. SHARROCK

Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers: a handbook. By C. Hilary Fry, Kathie Fry & Alan Harris. Christopher Helm (Publishers), London, 1992. 324 pages; 40 colour plates; line-illustrations and diagrams. £27.99.

This is the latest in the Helm identification guide series and matches the high standard of its predecessors. It covers 123 species in 40 full-colour plates by Alan Harris.

The layout is good, with lots of space, intelligent use of bold captioning in the text, and small vignettes dropped in here and there.

The introductory chapters on the groups covered are fascinating. I did not know of the Shovel-billed Kingfisher (Shovel-billed Kookaburra) *Clytoceyx rex*, but now that I do I want to see one. Reading the early chapters enticed me into reading the rest of the text, where, as is stated by the authors, a lot more is known about the habits of some species than others: compare Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* (4½ pages) with Timor Kingfisher (Cinnamon-backed Kingfisher) *Halcyon australasia* (1 page).

The plates are up to Alan Harris's usual high standard: the birds are good, and the background hints very nice, the only thing that niggled being the white background—but that is a minor point. On a professional level, I liked plate 2 especially, for the feather technique.

Kingfishers and rollers, and to a lesser extent bee-eaters, are 'wait-and-see hunters', so the similarity of poses creates a problem for the artist. This does, however, facilitate easy comparisons. My personal favourite was plate 5 (I wish I had painted it). On the down side, some of the birds look a bit too pale: Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*, Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*, Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* and European Roller *Coracias garrulus*; the Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* looks a bit squashed; and the wings of the flying Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* are perhaps a trifle short. Some plates (e.g. 13, 14, 33) are a little packed for my taste, but whenever I gaze at plates 2 and 6 I think 'Lovely!'.

In short, this book is nice to look at, with good dust cover, is reasonably priced, easy to read and a splendid addition to this excellent series. Put it on your Christmas present list or buy it now. DAVE NURNEY

Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire & Cheshire. By Jonathan Guest & Malcolm Hutcheson. Christopher Helm (Publishers), London, 1992. 225 pages; 51 maps; 33 illustrations. Paperback £10.99.

Authors of 'Where to Watch' guides face the problem of which places to omit. These authors admit to a sensible bias towards coastal sites, 'partly because it is difficult to identify agricultural and moorland sites that can absorb visitors without consequential harm to the birds.' That same spirit of consideration has ensured that they are discreet in their references to rarer breeding birds.

All the larger localities are treated under the headings 'Habitat', 'Species', 'Access', 'Timing' and 'Calendar'. In compiling their species lists, authors typically seek to sell the attractions of localities, but I wonder whether it would be more realistic if such lists were limited to—say—the past five years. I fancy I recognise some of my own one-off birding highlights from a decade or two ago.

Access is dealt with in conjunction with the maps, and with OS map references. There are useful hints about car parking, and public services, and exhortations about the need to maintain good relationships with landowners. 'Where we are aware of restrictions on access, these are detailed'; but there can be slip-ups, for a private hide on Bassenthwaite Lake is listed.

'Timing' gives sensible tips on the best time of day, tide or week to choose for your visit, while 'Calendar' lists how the bird populations change with the changing seasons.

The guide, which is generously illustrated by delicate bird portraits from the pen of David Mead, should provide the key to many enjoyable days a-birding in these three northern counties.

ROBERT SPENCER

News and comment

Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

BOC 100 Congratulations! The British Ornithologists' Club was founded on 5th October 1892. Over the past 100 years, the club has provided its members with 820 meetings, featuring lectures by many of the world's top ornithologists, and has published 112 volumes of its respected and much-referred-to *Bull. BOC*, currently edited by Dr D. W. Snow.

Membership of the BOC (£8.50 or US$22 p.a.) is open only to members of the British Ornithologists' Union, but the *Bulletin* may be purchased by non-members (£18 or US$40 p.a.). Hon. Treasurer: S. J. Farnsworth, Hammerkop, Frogmill, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 5NL; Hon. Secretary: Mrs A. M. Moore, 1 Uppingham Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JB.

Worldtwitch request The recent arrival of an envelope bearing the name of an American law firm caused us to wonder—until we looked inside and found a letter from a birding lawyer, John Wall. He tells us that *Winging It*, the newsletter of the American Birding Association, now includes the feature 'Worldtwitch', which reports on significant bird observations and twitching trips from around the world, but excluding North America and Europe. Reports (including tapes) are welcome and these and any correspondence should be sent to John W. Wall, 19 Tisdale Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583, USA (tel. 914 725 6049; FAX 914 725 1018). Requests for confidentiality over any particulars of a report will be honoured.

In search of the Crested Shelduck Reports concerning the rediscovery of the Crested Shelduck *Tadorna cristata* in a remote region of southwest China (*Da Ziran* 3 (1991); *Oriental Bird Club Bulletin* 14 (Nov. 1991); and *Brit. Birds* 85: 92) recently aroused considerable interest among ornithologists. The news was, however,

received rather sceptically by the small international team which has been actively involved in the search for the Crested Shelduck since a campaign was launched in 1980 to save the species. Since then, numerous unconfirmed observations and reported sightings have been collated. During 1983-86, six observations involving one to five birds have been reported; these show some interesting patterns which give some indication as to when and where we should be looking for this elusive species.

The *Da Ziran* report was investigated by our Chinese colleague Prof. Zhao Zhengjie of the Jilin Forestry Division, Changchun, Northeast China, who visited Yunnan province in December 1991. Local environment officials informed him that they believed they might have seen Crested Shelduck. Prof. Zhengjie encouraged the officials to continue with observations on the lake and to photograph the ducks they saw.

In June 1992, however, we learned, via Hong Kong, that Prof. Yang of the Southwest Forest College, Kunming, reports that 'There has been some Chinese follow-up on the sightings in Yunnan and people had concluded that the birds seen there were *not* Crested Shelducks.'

Meanwhile, we shall continue with our own investigations and are going ahead with plans for an expedition scheduled for March-April 1993 to eastern Russia, where we believe there is a possibility of finding the bird in its winter quarters. This expedition is all the more important since we recently received information from our Russian contact in Vladivostok of a multilateral project to develop a huge infrastructure in the border region of Russia, Northeast China and North Korea. If it is allowed to go ahead, it will destroy not only thousands of hectares of natural coastal wetland habitat, but also what may be the last refuge of the Crested Shelduck.

Funds are needed, so we appeal to private and international organisations and individuals interested in sponsoring this expedition to contact the organiser, John G. Walmsley, La Bergerie, Mas de Petit Badon, 13129 Salin-de-Giraud, France. (*Contributed by John Walmsley*)

'Yorkshire Birding' Yet another new birdwatching magazine, but this time very definitely a labour of ornithological love rather than a commercial venture, has just been launched: *Yorkshire Birding*. Edited by Andy Gibson, John Hewitt, Graham Speight and Mick Turton, all well-known, active birders, it covers the old county area of Yorkshire and is clearly aimed at the more active end of the market. Copies were selling like hot cakes at a recent twitch to Spurn Point (one of the localities that will always be in Yorkshire, whatever Westminster politicians would have us believe).

The first issue of this surprisingly glossy, though entirely black-and-white, quarterly includes a definitive list of Yorkshire birds (likely to attract some debate), articles on potential new species for Yorkshire, the first Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* in Yorkshire, the controversial Spurn Point Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* and a personal view on seawatching. Also, the first of regular features on well-known Yorkshire birders, Yorkshire birding days to remember, local news, a detailed quarterly summary of interesting birds in the county and the now obligatory mystery bird photograph (originated by *BB*). Useful platforms are provided for the YNU and RSPB.

This excellent magazine deserves to succeed and is obtainable (annual subscription of £8 payable to 'Yorkshire Birding') from Andy Gibson at 8 St Peter's Avenue, Anlaby, Hull, HU10 7AP. (*Contributed by Dave Britton*)

Well done, Cambridge! It makes a pleasant change to be able to record our appreciation of an act by a local authority, but in the case of Cambridgeshire County Council this is well justified. Working closely with Paul Mason and the Golden Oriole Group, the County Council's Rural Group is encouraging farmers on suitable fenland sites to plant poplars and manage the sites with Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* in mind. Habitat loss and a fall in the amount of poplars being planted in East Anglia have put in jeopardy the future of the bird in England: Cambridgeshire at present holds about a quarter of the UK breeding population.

Oriental etiquette Excellent guidelines on how to behave correctly when meeting officials in the Orient (and many could usefully be applied worldwide) are set out by Paul Jepson in the latest *Oriental Bird Club Bulletin* (15: 42-43). The *Bulletin* itself has been revamped, with larger format (from A5 to B5), higher-quality paper and colour photographs. All this is in addition to the Club's excellent journal, *Forktail*. Interested? Write to the OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL. (*JTRS*)

Radde's, Dusky, Thick-billed guaranteed The *BB* trip to Thailand in February-March 1993 will once again be led by local experts Kamol Komolphalin and Phil Round, artist and author of the new *Guide to the Birds of*

Thailand, will be organised by the leading bird-tour company SUNBIRD, and will be run in three sections: (a) a week at Khao Yai National Park, (b) a week visiting the forested mountains around Chiang Mai, and (c) a week in Peninsular Thailand seeking Siberian waders and Gurney's Pittas *Pitta gurneyi*. A huge selection of thrushes, chats, warblers and flycatchers is guaranteed, including many Fair Isle/Scilly September/October/November specialities, such as Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*, Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* and Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*. For details write or phone to SUNBIRD, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; Sandy (0767) 682969.

BB subscribers can claim a 10% reduction on the usual price.

SOC it to me Any birders with a sense of pun should beg, borrow or steal a copy of *Scottish Bird News* (no. 26, June 1992) and read the article by Richard & Barbara Mearns entitled 'A Cornitholiday in Scoterland'. Or join the Scottish Ornithologists' Club: write to 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

New bird name Obviously artificial, a name recently manufactured, either by Les Stocker or his publishers, Chatto and Windus, appears in *The Complete Garden Bird*: Created Tit. Scientific name *Parus edeni* or *Parus frankensteinii*, perhaps?

255. 'Kowa telescope, *BB* sticker . . . so where's the *Zeiss* binoculars?' Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, Netherlands, December 1991 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*)



Monthly marathon

Sponsored by



July's wader (plate 145) was named as:

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*	(86%)
Lesser Yellowlegs *T. flavipes*	(6%)
Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*	(5%)
Greenshank *T. nebularia*	(2%)

and a total of 11 other wader species.

It was a Greater Yellowlegs, photographed in Florida, USA, in April by Gordon Langsbury.

Of the leading contestants, none fell at this hurdle. The eventual winner of this competition, which is turning into a real endurance test, will be able to choose a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday to Africa, Asia or North America. The next stage of the competition appears below.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.



256. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-seventh stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 76). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th November 1992

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This sumnary covers the period 15th August to 3rd September 1992

These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork), 21st August.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Pagham Harbour (West Sussex), 15th August.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Blackrock Strand (Co. Kerry), 20th-22nd August .

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* Cantley Beet Factory (Norfolk), 18th-20th August.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* Fair Isle (Shetland), 26th and 31st August.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Two, Filey Brigg (North Yorkshire), 18th August.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Formby Point (Merseyside), 16th August.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* Flamborough Head (Humberside), 18th August.

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* Woodbury Common, near Exmouth (Devon), 19th August .

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* Kirkwall (Orkney), 1st-2nd September.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* Holme (Norfolk), 31st August to at least 3rd September.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 24th August.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111

(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Books and other items are included in British BirdShop only if they are approved by *British Birds* and considered to be generally reliable, good value and useful additions to a birdwatcher's library. Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned and your money will be refunded without question. It is our aim to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best and most reliable service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by the Natural History Book Service. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.



Books All listed books are POST FREE. Newly listed books and special offers marked *

Please tick ✓

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* NEW, REVISED EDITION (OUP). £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *The Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins). £14.99 ☐
Bergier & Bergier *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Morocco* (Prion). Paperback £8.75 ☐
Birkhead *The Magpies* (Poyser). £18.00 ☐
Brazil *Birds of Japan* (Helm). £35.00 ☐
*British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (USUALLY £10.50). Paperback £9.50 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP). £24.95 ☐
Brucker, Gosler & Heryet *The Birds of Oxfordshire* (Nat. Cons. Bureau). £27.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser). £49.50 ☐
*Chandler *North Atlantic Shorebirds* (Macmillan) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £12.95) £9.95 ☐
*Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (OUP).
.....vol. 1 £85 ☐ vol. 2 £85 ☐ vol. 3 £85 ☐ vol. 4 £85 ☐ vol. 5 £85 ☐ vol. 6 £75.00 ☐
del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (Lynx). £95.00 ☐
de Schauensee *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela* (Princeton) Paperback £26.00 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Dymond *The Birds of Fair Isle* (Dymond). Paperback £11.95 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐
ffrench *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago.* 2nd edn. (Helm). Paperback £25.00 ☐
Finlayson *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar* (Poyser). £27.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton). Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers* (Helm). £27.99 ☐
Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press)
.....vol. 1 £81.00 ☐ vol. 2 £81.00 ☐ vol. 3 £81.00 ☐ vol. 4 £85.00 ☐
Gaston *The Ancient Murrelet* (Poyser). £17.00 ☐
Grant *Gulls: a guide to identification* (Poyser). £17.50 ☐
Guest & Hutcheson *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire* (Helm) Paperback £10.99 ☐
Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic Press)£65.00 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan). £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983. £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986. £24.99 ☐
*Henry *Highlight the Wild: the art of the Reid Henrys* (usually £25.00). £10.00 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser). £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic Press). Hardback £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World). £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* (Helm) 2nd edn. £35.00 ☐
Jobling *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (OUP). £19.95 ☐
*Jonsson *The Birds of Europe* (Helm) £25.00 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987. £22.50 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP). £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet). £35.00 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser). £20.00 ☐
LPO *Where to Watch Birds in France* (Helm). Paperback £12.99 ☐
Lundberg *The Pied Flycatcher* (Poyser). £19.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988. £24.99 ☐
Mundy, Butchart, Ledger & Piper *Vultures of Africa* (Academic Press). £49.50 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form on page xii to complete your order.

British BirdShop

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE POST FREE TO 'BRITISH BIRDS' SUBSCRIBERS

Please tick ✓

National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Norman & Tucker *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall* (Helm) Paperback £11.95 ☐
*Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (BRITISH BIRDS) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £12.95 ☐
Parmenter & Byers *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic* (Bruce Coleman) £21.00 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Saunders *Rare Birds of the British Isles* (Stephens) £15.99 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Skerrett & Bullock *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Seychelles* (Prion) Paperback £8.75 ☐
Snow *Birds, Discovery and Conservation: 100 years of the BOC* (Helm Information) £19.95 ☐
Summers-Smith *In Search of Sparrows* (Poyser) £17.00 ☐
Trodd & Kramer *The Birds of Bedfordshire* (Castlemead) £18.95 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐
British Birds *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.* If other books ordered, £1.00 ☐ £1.85 ☐

Other titles

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from the NHBS. Please refer to the NHBS catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates. Free copies of the NHBS catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders and ties

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) Currently out of stock. Announcement shortly.
Ties, with Red Grouse emblem in white, £6.95 each: Blue ☐ Green ☐ Brown ☐ Maroon ☐

Recordings *Please add £1.75 p & p per order*

Please tick

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £13.99 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £5.99 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) 4 CDs £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING OCTOBER 1992 for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to the NHBS. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. NHBS Giro ac no. 202 9200.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Totnes (0803) 865913. FAX. (0803) 865280

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN**

WITH ANY SCOPE OR BINO PURCHASE OVER £100

FOR THE LOWEST PRICES

SCOPES

BAUSCH & LOMB

Elite 77mm Scope Body	£375
Elite 20-60x Zoom	£198
Elite 20x Eyepiece	£149

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle)	£219
TSN-602 Body (straight)	£199
20 x WA	£64
27 x (New) WA	£94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle)	£316
TSN 2 Body (straight)	£316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle)	£636
TSN 4 Body (straight)	£636
20 x WA	£109
25 x	£69
30 x WA	£139
40 x	£69
60 x	£119
77 x	£109
20-60x Zoom	£169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof)	£39.95
Standard Case	£24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm)	£129

NIKON

Spotting Scope c/w 20 x	£199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 x	£265
Fieldscope c/w 20 x	£304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45 x	£379.50
*EDII c/w 20 x	£554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45 x	£629.95

NEW! EDII Angled Body £640

COMING SOON!
30 x WIDE EYEPIECE
Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom	£198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBC 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31
HR Photoadaptor Variable	£33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

KOWA, NIKON, OPTOLYTH, OPTICRON SCOPE DEALS — Don't read the list, PHONE for UK's lowest prices!

BINOS & BEST ADVICE

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	~~£219.95~~	£189.00

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC	£199
8 x 20 BCA	£239
10 x 25 BC	£239
10 x 25 BCA	£255
7 x 42 BA	£649
8 x 42 BA	£649
10 x 42 BA	£649

All normally available in black or green finish.

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured	£495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA)	£227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£249
10 x 25 B	£269
8 x 20 BGA	£315
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£529
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£699
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style)	£319

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact	£215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism	£365
10 x 25 Roof Prism Compact	£240
NEW! 10 x 42 SLC Roof Prism	£569

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY	£269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA	£199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW	£79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA 'P'	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA 'P'	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact	£65
9 x 25 CF Compact	£84
10 x 25 CF III Compact	£112
8 x 20 F	£134
10 x 25 F	£149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof	£170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof	£175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact	£299
8 x 30 WFC	£199
8 x 40 Sporting II	£119.95
10 x 50 Sporting II	£139.95
7 x 50 Sporting II	£129

ANGENIEUX

8 x 24 F Compact	£249

SECONDHAND

BINOS

Swift Trilyte Mk III 10 x 40 £79
Tokina 10 x 40 Roof Prism £79
Penta 8 x 40 WA £89
Leica 10 x 25BCA + Case £189

SCOPES

Kowa 20 x 50 £39

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Slik D3	£89.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95

Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen) 0703 221597/335363

Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- Part exchange welcomed.
- Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- Major credit cards accepted.

VISA (D199)

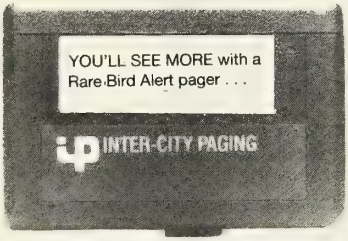
LOOK INTO A RARE BIRD ALERT PAGER ...

SEE WHY IT'S THE BEST SERVICE



PROVEN RELIABLE COMPREHENSIVE in every way

RARE BIRD ALERT BIRD PAGERS



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS FOR YOURSELF:

The BEST news service

There's no longer any need to wonder WHAT the latest bird news is; WHEN you're going to find out (or even HOW MUCH you'll spend finding it).

Simply read all the news, as it happens, on a Rare Bird Alert message pager, including updates, directions, and negative news.

It's reliable, comprehensive and extremely cost effective, with no nasty surprises when the bills come in.

For an info pack with a sample print-out of a days messages and an order form: call **Dick Filby** on 0603 767799 or call Inter-City, **Free**, and ask for Rare Bird Alert

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

(D196)

INTER-CITY PAGING

FOCALPOINT FIELDSHOWS

The binocular and telescope specialists THE way to try and buy (10.30am–4pm)

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE,
MARTIN MERE, Burscough, Lancs (M6, Jct 27).
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October.
★ A MAJOR EVENT WITH MANY SPECIAL OFFERS ★

THE B.T.O. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ORNITHOLOGY,
THETFORD, NORFOLK.
Saturday 10th October 1992.
A great day out — All the Best in binoculars, telescopes & accessories, plus FINE ART, and NEW and SECONDHAND books.

All are welcome at these events. They are staffed by experienced birders who will help you choose. Information packs and appointments on request – let us know your specific requirements.

MAJOR ART EVENT AT MARTIN MERE 18th Sept – 18th Oct inclusive



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 Fax: 0606-892207 (D161)

(D194)

Want To Go Birdwatching But Leave The Car At Home?

Then "Birdwatching By Train" may help. This 128-page booklet contains details of 50 sites easy to reach by rail, the local rail service and network, and the birds likely to be seen there. Professionally-produced, also included are photographs (some in colour), and details of the habitats and local facilities, as well as advice on the best deals for travelling by rail in Britain. Written by bird enthusiasts Alison and Nigel Harris, with assistance from British Rail.

Priced at £5.95, the booklet is available through bookshops or from:

BBT OFFER
43A PALACE SQUARE
LONDON SE19 2LT

at £7 inc. p&p.

(Cheques only please, made payable to A&N Harris).

BUY NOW — IDEAL FOR CHRISTMAS

(D187)



(D172)

RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS

A COMPLETELY NEW EXPERIENCE

Escorted tours with English speaking ornithologists visiting areas of the former Soviet Union never before possible.

May 4	Boreal Forest of Russia	June 14	Amur Delta, Sakhalin & Kamchatka
May 5	Great Caucasus Mountains	June 15	Altai & Mongolia
May 11	Boreal Forest of Russia	June 16	Tuva, Central Asia & Lake Baikal
May 19	Ussuriland & Amur Delta	June 17	The Best of the Siberian Arctic
May 20	Kazakhstan & Altai	July 15 & August 1	The Best of the Tien Shan Mountains
June 5	Taimyr & Central Siberia		

Independent birding trips for small groups — you've dreamed about them, now it's possible!

Relict & Ross's Gulls, Ibisbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, five species of Snowcock, Pander's Ground Jay — need we go on!

Contact Paul Dukes

RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS
57 Fore Street
Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1PG
Tel: 0548 856437 Fax: (0548) 857537

(D186)

ABTA 62948

SENEGAL
West Africa

One week tours. Second week beach/birds option.
Weekly Flights November-April.
Max. 8 in party. Small friendly groups.
Official tour accompanying the International Ornithological Expedition.
Meet the scientists and visit the ringing study sites.
Learn about the migrations of birds.
The wetland birds are spectacular — Pelicans, Flamingoes, Spoonbills, vast numbers of Ducks and Waders. Also Bustards and Raptores.
European birds in their winter quarters with exotic African species.
Comfortable hotels and park lodges.
Non-profit making: any surplus helps to finance the Expedition.

For details write to:

Stephen Rumsey
The Wetland Trust, Pett Lane,
Icklesham, East Sussex TN36 4AH

(D188)

island holidays

AN ATOL BONDED COMPANY

ATOL 2725

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
with Peter Clement

A relaxed birding holiday to these little explored islands on the Equator off the West Coast of Africa with lots of general interest as well.

It may be possible to add on an extra week for an expedition to find the four rare endemics in the south-west of the island.

Departs 2 & 9 August 1993. Max in group 8. Cost £2,375 + travel insurance.

Full details from
Island Holidays
Ardross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2JU
Tel: 0764 70107

(D189)

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be **PREPAID**
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(These prices do not include VAT)
£2.50 a line—average of 6 words
£8.50 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is £1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions less 10%
6 insertions less 15%
12 insertions less 20%

Copy Date
November issue
October 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds
is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm and HarperCollins — *Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

THE LAWNS HOTEL

Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Clev 5 miles. Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390



(BB963)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB918)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB237)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB213)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/ Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB235)

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey, Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB171)

ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB208)

ISLES OF SCILLY. Self catering units for 2/5. Linen, towels, TV included. Well furnished & equipped. Guest House accommodation also available. All rooms en suite, colour TV, tea/coffee making facilities. Conveniently situated. D. Williams, The Bylet Guest House, St Mary's, Isle of Scilly. Tel: 0720 22479. (BB224)

RAVINE COTTAGE, FILEY
(Gem of the Yorkshire coast)

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Clay-Thomas (Finder of the speckled warbler) warmly welcome you to their tastefully furnished guest house. Run by birders for birders and ideally situated within 2 mins of the Country Park, Brigg and Dams Nature Reserve and 20 mins from Flamborough and Bempton Cliffs. Local bird information available at all times. Good home cooking (vegetarians catered for). Tel: Ravine Cottage Guest House on Scarborough (0723) 514656 or 512595. (Special rates for B/B readers). BB260

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB243)

SCOTLAND

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)

ABERNETHY & CAIRNGORM — up to Deluxe 5 crowns, 1993 brochure from Strathspey Self Catering, Grant Road, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3LA. Tel: 0479 2939. (BB232)

THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB183)

WALES

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest house standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB248)

YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)

SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB238)

OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA, CAIRNS, JULATTEN. At Kingfisher Park we provide accommodation and camping facilities in a rainforest sanctuary for native birds and animals. We are central to a variety of habitats and cater for the interests and enthusiasms of birdwatchers and naturalists. Write now for a free birdlist to Kingfisher Park, P.O. Box 3, Julatten, Queensland, Australia 4871. (BB221)

CAMARGUE — TOWN HOUSE. Sleeps 10. £150-£250 pw (0624) 676151. Fx 662787. (BB122)

HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, 13200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB229)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL

ABTA 97237

100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS

'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES – WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

SPECIALIST ADVISER - ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)

ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB204)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America!
Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1000 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

WILDWINGS

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£145
CARIBBEAN	£325
C. & S. AMERICA	£399
AFRICA	£99
N. AMERICA	£199
ASIA	£280
AUS/NZ	£499

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2850 pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST, BRISTOL BS1 3AU
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757 MON-FRI
ABTA 65077

(BB251)

'HIGH ISLAND'
UPPER TEXAS COAST U.S.A.

Just opened. Bed and breakfast for groups of 4 or 8. 'Birder's Haven, P.O. 309, High Island, Texas 77623. Tel: 409 286 5362 or 214 824 5390. (BB242)

SRI LANKA

Combine serious bird watching (21 endemic species) with a wonderful holiday in our superb Island. For tailormade trips (individuals and groups) contact the experienced specialists:

A BAUR & CO (TRAVEL) LTD
PO BOX 11, COLOMBO 1
FAX NO. 0094-1-448493 (BB256)

NEW FOR 1993
A New Concept in Budget Birding Holidays
FULLY-ESCORTED WEEKS FOR
UNDER FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS!

We are now able to offer self-catering options to a 'new' and exciting area of Southeastern Spain at bargain prices.

- ★ Wetlands, Mountains, Coasts — excellent, varied lists.
- ★ Experienced English leader.
- ★ Quality accommodation, with choice of self-catering or very reasonable meals.
- ★ Small, relaxed groups.
- ★ Varied and flexible birding arrangements.
- ★ Several departures.

Write for details: Calandra Holiday, P.O. Box 89, Ashford, Kent TN24 9TE, or call 0233 628547.
***Also fully-inclusive tours** — options available — details on request.*

(BB245)

DISCOVER THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA with Emu Tours, PO Box 4, Jamberoo, NSW 2533, Gipsy Point Lodge, Gipsy Point, Vic 3891, Philip Maher Inland Bird Tours, 94 Hunter Street, Deniliquin, NSW 2710, Cassowary House, Kuranda, Queensland 4872. Four great opportunities to see the unique birdlife of Australia. (BB259)

HONG KONG. Superb birding September to May — variety of accommodation — trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB228)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRD INFORMATION

The BEST service
RARE BIRD ALERT
BIRD PAGERS
PROVEN, RELIABLE, QUALITY SERVICE
relax with a Rare Bird Alert Pager. For details
Call 0800 246 246
or call Dick Filby on 0603 767799

BIRD REPORT

BIRDS IN CORNWALL 1991 now available. £5 (inc. postage) from Stanley Christophers, 'Bramblings', Rachels Way, St Columb Major, Cornwall TR9 6EP. (BB222)

NEW EXPANDED 76-page Lindisfarne's Birds now available. History, seasons, migration, research, 293 species detailed. £3.65p inc. p & p from NTBC, West Farm, Kirkheaton, Northumberland NE19 2DQ. (BB234)

BOOKS

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407

(BB250)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £6.45 inclusive p/p to:
Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP (BB223)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3JP (Tel: 09315-282).
(BB066)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804.
(BB151)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request
Tel: 0352 770881
Fax: 0352 771690

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS
SUBBUTEO NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD
Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd, North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel: 0433 630137. (BB247)
BIRD BOOKS: Out-of-print, uncommon and rare. Quarterly catalogue. Peacock Books, Box 2024, Littleton, Mass. 01460, USA. (BB239)

PERSONAL

CHRISTIAN SINGLES. Social activities. Friendship. Fellowship groups. Holidays. CFF Dept B124, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (BB252)

FOR SALE

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS

Highly rec. *MIDLAND PORT-A-PAC CB* £99 + £3.50 pp.
Mobiles from £58 * H/held from £69 * Base Stat. from £159
SAE for Details/Price List Rech Batts (10 x AA) £12
Cheques payable * Omega Systems
43 Hemlington Rd, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG 0642 595845
(BB104)

BIRD JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB144)

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes.
Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6.
Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB145)

"BANNERMAN'S BIRDS OF BRITISH ISLES. Perfect condition in dust jackets. 12 vols. £240 plus half delivery. Phone: 0297 33250. (BB254)
BIRDWATCHING IN LESBOS. Find out the sites to visit, the birds to see. Full description of sites with maps plus bird list. 45 pages. £4.50. Williams, 87 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1DE. (BB189)
'BRITISH BIRDS' 1979-1991, complete, in Easi-binders. Will not split. Offers? Also 14 issues (loose), Jan '62-June '63 (includes Aug '62 — Hastings Rarities). 0733 243095 (eves). (BB258)
BWP VOLS 1-5. Excellent condition. £200.00. Tel: 0243 374574. (BB257)
ZEISS DIALYT 10 x 40 BGAT 'P' (mint), case and box. £375. Tel: 0202 535074. (BB255)

WANTED

URGENTLY REQUIRED. Ornithological Society of Turkey Bird Reports Nos 1-4 (1966-75). 0603 661964 (Guy Kirwan).
(BB253)

WALKERS

Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods – SLRs – compacts

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * OPTOLYTH * ADLERBLICK**

PRACTIKA SPORT
8 x 25 ARMOUR
SRP £54.99
£32.50

RUSSIAN

7 x 35	£27
8 x 30	£27
8 x 40	£30
10 x 50	£30
12 x 40	£33
20 x 60	£59

PENTAX 9 x 63 (NEW) **£250**
MINOLTA 8 x 32 (NEW) **£125**
AUTOFOCUS
AICO FOCUS FREE (NEW)
8 x 30 **£60** 10 x 50 **£70**
SECONDHAND
ZEISS 15 x 60 **£300** OPOLYTH 10 x 42 **£90**
OPTICRON 22 x 70 **£200**

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334
(D195)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 10 October 1992

507 **Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1991** *Michael J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee*

Notes

555 Breeding productivity of Little Grebe *S. W. M. Hughes*
556 Wilson's Petrel with legs ensnared in fishing mesh *C. C. Moore*
556 Leach's Storm-petrels visiting ships at sea *Dr W. R. P. Bourne*
557 Behaviour of Leach's Petrels at dusk and night around yacht in mid Atlantic *Dr H. D. V. Prendergast*
558 Extra-pair copulation by breeding male Mute Swan *Dr Jane Sears*
559 Montagu's Harriers taking prey disturbed by farm machinery *Bob Image*
560 Nest cup of Moorhen composed of polythene *Tim Dean*
560 Knob-nibbling by Crested Coot *Drs. Arnoud B. van den Berg*
561 Savannah Sparrow in Shetland: second record for the Western Palearctic *Peter M. Ellis and Nick J. Riddiford*

565 **Mystery photographs** *181* Swainson's Thrush *Dr Colin Bradshaw*

Letters

569 Identifying Spanish egrets *L. Chandler and C. Chandler*
569 Sexual plumage dimorphism of adult Sparrowhawks *Paul Marshman*

571 **ICBP news** *Dr Georgina Green*

Announcement

571 Books in British BirdShop

571 Seventy-five years ago . . .

Reviews

572 'The Birds of Oxfordshire' edited by J. W. Brucker, A. G. Gosler & A. R. Heryet *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*
572 'Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers: a handbook' by C. Hilary Fry, Kathie Fry & Alan Harris *Dave Nurney*
573 'Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire & Cheshire' by Jonathan Guest & Malcolm Hutcheson *Robert Spencer*

573 **News and comment** *Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch*

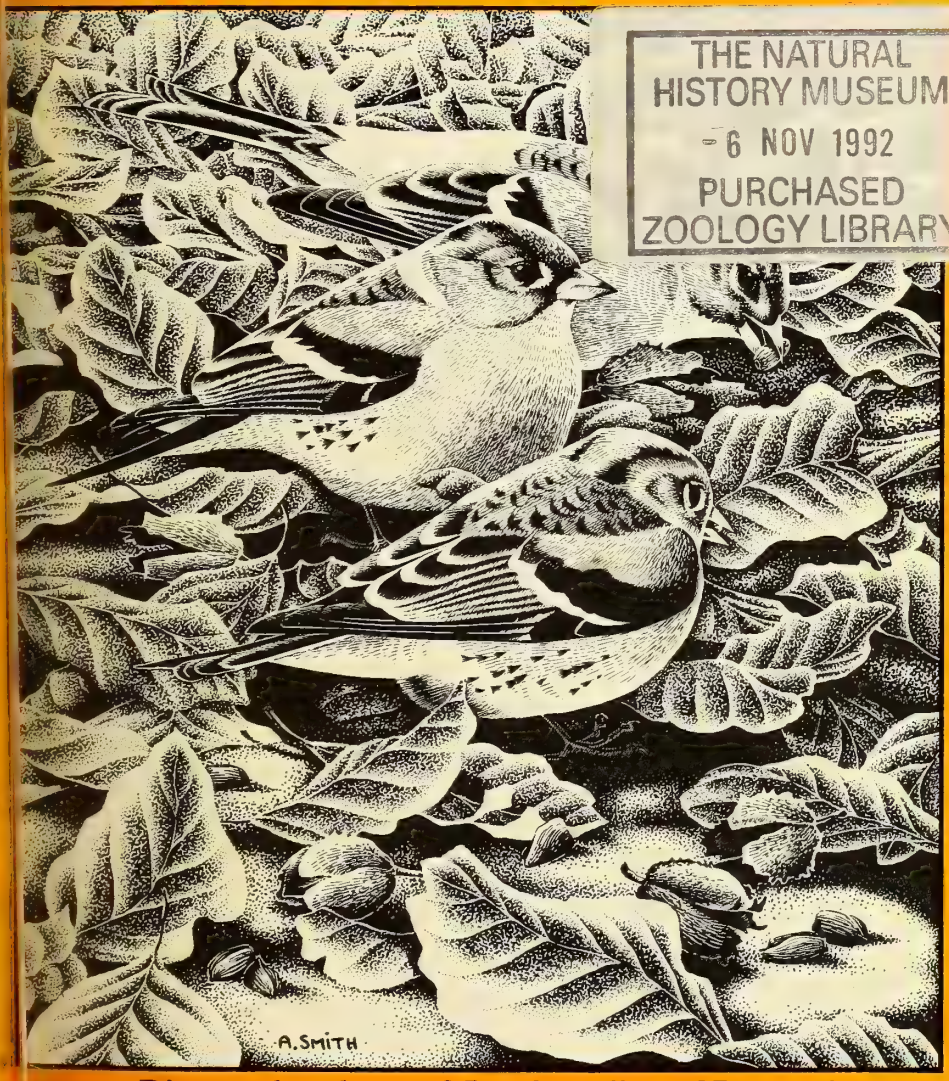
575 **Monthly marathon**

576 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

Front cover: Red-breasted Flycatcher in traveller's-joy (*Gary Wright*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 11 November 1992



THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
6 NOV 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Dispersal and age of first breeding of Buzzards
Identification of Crane
Golden-winged Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic
Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs
The 'British Birds' Best Bird Book of the Year
PhotoSpot: White-breasted Kingfisher
'The Carl Zeiss Award'
Notes • Letters • Review • News and comment

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, R. A. Hume, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, R. A. Hume, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. *Phone:* Totnes (0803) 865913

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £45.80, IR£53.50 or $86.50. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £37.20, IR£43.60 or $70.00; personal airmail outside Europe £62.50, IR£72.95 or $118.00. Single back copies £4.75, IR£5.50 or $9.00.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984); names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford

HISTORY MUSEUM
- 6 NOV 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

204 HIGH STREET, BARNET, HERTS. EN5 5SZ
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 081 449 1445
Phone 081 441 7748
Fax 081 440 9999
HOW TO FIND US (Barnet)
We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

WWT SLIMBRIDGE GLOUCESTER
We are now open two weeks in every month from 10 am - 4 pm daily offering superb viewing from the McNeice Room.
Sat 7th to Fri 20th November
Sat 12th to Wed 23rd December
Sat 9th to Fri 22nd January
Tel: 0836 311398

ANGLIAN WATER BIRDWATCHING CENTRE EGLETON RESERVE,RUTLAND WATER
New showroom in association with Bird and Wildlife Bookshop offering superb viewing over lagoons. Open from 9 am to4 pm every day except Thursdays. Tel: 0572 770656

WWF WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

MAIN STREET, TITCHWELL, NORFOLK PE31 8BB
OPEN 7 DAYS
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 0485 210101
HOW TO FIND US (Norfolk)
We are 500 yards east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car parking

FORTHCOMING FIELD EVENTS

We are pleased to offer our customers the best viewing facilities around the UK at RSPB, WWT and County Trusts' Reserves. Demonstrations are usually from hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10 am - 4 pm.

BARONS HAUGH MOTHERWELL, SCOTLAND
Sat 31st October
Sun 1st November

GRAFHAM WATER NATURE RESERVE CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Sun 1st November

FISHERS GREEN LEA VALLEY, ESSEX
Sun 8th November
Sun 13th December

DAWLISH WARREN EXETER, DEVON
Sat 14th & Sun 15th November

ABBERTON COLCHESTER, ESSEX
Sun 15th November
Sun 6th December

RSPB BLACKTOFT SANDS HUMBERSIDE
Sat 21st & Sun 22nd November

KENFIG MID-GLAMORGAN SOUTH WALES
Sat 28th & Sun 29th November

RSPB DUNGENESS KENT
Sat 5th & Sun 6th December

BROOMHILL FLASH BARNSLEY, YORKSHIRE
Sat 19th Sun 20th December

WWT ARUNDEL WEST SUSSEX
Sat 19th & Sun 20th December

HAUXLEY NATURE RESERVE NORTHUMBERLAND
Sat 12th & Sun 13th December

IMPORTANT! IN FOCUS PLEDGES TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRICE-MATCHING POLICY SUBJECT TO INCREASES NOW IN FORCE FROM MANY MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS FOLLOWING BRITAIN'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EXCHANGE RATE MECHANISM. PHONE FOR LATEST DETAILS OF SPECIAL OFFERS AND PACKAGE DEALS. (Prices correct at time of going to press. E&OE).

NEW OPTICS AT BIRDFAIR

Nikon and Swarovski announced new product lines at Birdfair - Nikon their long-awaited angled-eyepiece version of their Fieldscope, and Swarovski the new fully waterproofed SLCII 7x42 & 10x42 binocular. Both now available from In Focus.

PHOTOKINA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leica release their new compact 8x32 BA binocular which has excellent field of view and close focusing characteristics and further product lines are expected from Nikon - a 30xWA eyepiece - and a new 'scopes from Kowa must be a likely development for 1993.

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECOND HAND SCOPES ASK FOR DETAILS

PART EXCHANGE
Top prices paid for good condition telescopes and binoculars.

TITCHWELL SHOP

Our Norfolk shop at Titchwell now carries a wide range of birding books in association with the Birds and Wildlife Bookshop in addition to being linked to the Rare Bird Alert Paging system - all sightings now being logged on the board outside the shop door. Richard Campey now manages the Titchwell shop on a permanent basis and being a keen birder in his own right brings a particular level of practical expertise to our Norfolk customers.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT
Three months interest-free credit available on all orders for new equipment of £400 and above.

SWAROVSKI

	£
SLC II 8x30WBGA	365.00
SLC II 7x42 BGA	528.00
SLC II 10x42 BGA	571.00

CARL ZEISS DIALYT

	£
8X30 BGAT*P	529.00
7X42 BGAT*P	639.00
10x40 BGAT*P	639.00

NIKON

	£
8X30E	229.00
10x35E	249.00
S/Scope 20x60	199.00
S/Scope 15-45x60	265.00
Fieldscope II 20x60	304.00
Fieldscope ED II 20x60 (angled version P.O.A).	555.00

KOWA

	£
TS 601/602 Bodies	219.00
TSN 1/2 Bodies	360.00
TSN 3/4 Bodies	725.00
W/A eyepieces from	124.00
Other eyepieces from	79.00

OPTOLYTH

	£
TBG/TBS Bodies	390.00
TBG/TBS HD Bodies	645.00
Eyepieces from	77.00

BAUSCH & LOMB ELITE

	£
7x36 BGAP	599.00
8x42/10X42 BGAP	659.00

LEICA TRINOVID

	£
8x32BA	668.00
7X42/8X42/10x42BA	738.00

BLUE RIBAND CARE PLAN

For a single payment of £15 the new In Focus Blue Riband Careplan offers :-

- ✦ Accidental damage cover for three years from date of purchase on all new binoculars and telescopes.
- ✦ Guaranteed part-exchange trade-in value on any further purchases with In Focus - rising to 100% of original purchase price after five years.

MAIL AND TELEPHONE ORDERS

Any orders received by mail or telephone will automatically qualify for a free Blue Riband Care Plan worth £15. Please remember to add £2.00 towards the cost of insured Trakbak postage and packing - whether paying by cheque, Visa, Access or Mastercard - and goods will be despatched with full 14 days approval the same day on receipt of your remittance.

BIRD ILLUSTRATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Write or phone for details of our new intensive one-day bird illustration and photography workshops being held at the Lemsford Springs Reserve near Welwyn in Hertfordshire. Led by the wildlife artist, John Cox, and the bird photographer, Dave Cottridge, bookings are now being taken for the autumn workshop programme.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSES
Write or phone for details of our new bird identification courses being offered from our Titchwell shop on the North Norfolk Coast. Bookings now being taken for the autumn and winter programme.

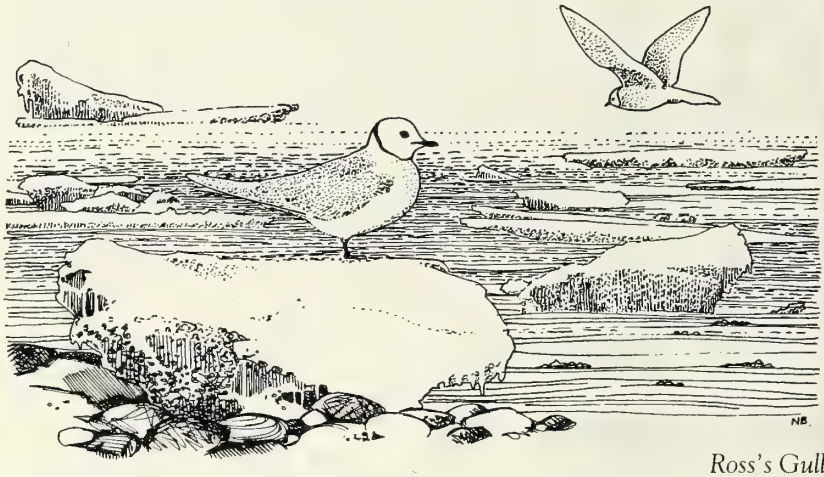
SECOND HAND ITEMS
Instruments always available. On receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope we can supply current price lists of binoculars and telescopes.

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK
at the Briarfields Hotel at Titchwell in Norfolk on all purchases of £400 or more at the current In Focus list prices.

D213

BIRDQUEST

FIRST CHOICE FOR RUSSIA



Ross's Gulls

DISCERNING BIRDERS CHOOSE US FOR:

OUR UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE IN RUSSIAN BIRDING TOURS, ALREADY AMOUNTING TO OVER 30 SUCCESSFUL TOURS IN TEN YEARS. (BIRDQUEST HAVE TAKEN MORE BIRDERS TO RUSSIA THAN ALL OTHER BIRD TOUR COMPANIES COMBINED!)

BETTER BIRDING IN SMALLER GROUPS (LIMIT 10-12)

EXPERT LEADERS WITH THE ABILITY TO FIND THOSE SOUGHT-AFTER SPECIALITIES

BIRDQUEST ... First in the Field

For our brochure please contact us at:
Two Jays, Kemple End, Birdy Brow,
Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB6 9QY.
Tel: 0254-826317. Fax: 0254-826780.

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

D04



FIELD DAYS

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Any entrance or parking fees refunded with purchase. Repairs can also be handed in.
★ **10.00 am to 4.00 pm** ★

★ **PAGHAM HARBOUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**
on the B2145 into Selsey, West Sussex, on **Sundays 25th October, 29th November and 20th December.**

★ **SEVENOAKS WILDFOWL RESERVE**
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball station on **Sundays 1st November and 6th December.**

★ **BOUGH BEACH NATURE RESERVE/RESERVOIR**
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 15th November and 13th December.**

★ **BEWL WATER**
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Sundays 27th September, 25th October and Saturday 19th December.**

★ **ALTON WATER**
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 29th November.**

★ **COLLEGE LAKE WILDLIFE CENTRE**
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the overlook hide on **Sunday 8th November and Saturday 12th December.**

★ **SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS**
(off M5) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Saturday 21st November.**

★ **N.T. WICKEN FEN**
off the A1123, north-east of Cambridge. In the visitor centre on **Sunday 8th November.**

★ **DINTON PASTURES COUNTRY PARK**
near Reading (M4, A329(M) Woodley turnoff) and then A329 to Winnersh and Winnersh Station (B3030) on **Sunday 22nd November** in the Loddon Room

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

PRICES: General price increases, partly due to floating currencies, are expected but an accurate price list cannot be prepared at the time of advertisement preparation. However, as always, we will do our utmost to avoid price increases — particularly while present stocks last. In any event, we will endeavour to offer you the best possible deals.

Some examples of our stocks:

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL TELESCOPES — ask for details

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
800mm RA mirror lens kit	299
SWAROVSKI	
7 x 30 SLC	353
8 x 30 SLC	365
10 x 42 SLC (NEW)	571
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	PHONE
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	PHONE
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	PHONE
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	PHONE
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	PHONE
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	PHONE
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	PHONE
SWIFT	
8½ x 44 HR Audubon	239
10 x 50 Audubon	249
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	157
10 x 25 waterproof	157
8 x 20 F roof prism	135
10 x 25 F roof prism	150
9 x 30 roof prism	244
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	229
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	249
Fieldscope II body	229
Fieldscope ED II body	480
Angled Fieldscope IIA body	259
Angled EDIIA body	510
15x, 20x, 30x or 40x eyepiece	75
60x eyepiece	85
20-45x Zoom eyepiece	147
Camera adaptor	168
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
● FREE WITH STRAIGHT SCOPE ●	
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	199
Spotting scope 20–45x GA	265
KOWA	
TSN-1 (45°) body	316
TSN-2 body	316
TSN-3 body	636
TSN-4 body	636
25x or 40x eyepiece	69
20x (WA) eyepiece	109
30x (WA) eyepiece	139
20–60x zoom eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece	109
77x eyepiece	119
Camera adaptor 800mm	129
Camera adaptor 1200mm	199
Kowa case	25
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover	5
Eyepiece dust dome	15
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece	64
TS 601 scope body (45°)	219
TS 602 scope body (45°)	199
27x (WA) eyepiece	94
20x (WA) eyepiece	64
25x (WA)	54
20-60x zoom	109
Case	22
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope body	149
25x eyepiece	30
27x (WA) eyepiece	64
OPTOLYTH	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body	390
TBS 80 (45°) body	390
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	549
30x (WW) new eyepiece	135
40x (WA) new eyepiece	77
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22–60x zoom eyepiece	159
TB nylon case	36
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes:-	
Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case	190
GA w/zoom & case	230
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
Piccolo Mk II ED, with case:	
20 x 60	355
20-60x 60	399
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
20-60x zoom EP	72
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT	
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Slik 444 'Sport'	79
Slik 'Shogun'	99
Manfrotto 144B/200	105
Manfrotto 190B/200	93
Manfrotto 290B/200	95
Soligor	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps, from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports** including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit** (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

Access

(D203)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

FOCUS OPTICS

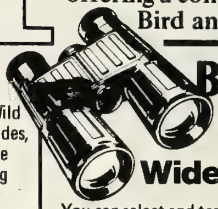
Another 1st for FOCUS OPTICS!

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR POPULAR BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE BUSINES

MIDLANDS LEADING OPTICS SPECIALISTS HAVE CREATED A NEW

BIRD and CONSERVATION CENTRE

Set in twenty acres of private ground adjacent to our Optics Showroom, offering a comprehensive range of qua Bird and Conservation product



BINOCULARS an TELESCOPES

Wide range - Top quali

You can select and test the worlds finest optical instrume from our centrally located showroom.

ZEISS • LEICA • HABICHT • BAUSCH & LOMB • OPTOL QUESTAR • NIKON • ADLERBLICK • BUSHNELL • OPT KOWA • BRESSER • OPTICRON • MIRADOR • REDFI PENTAX • FUMOTO • SWIFT • FUJINON • PRAKTICA • R

We carry one of the most extensive ranges of Binoculars Telescopes in the country, with the needs of the ornitholo in mind. Our own conservation area makes us unique. A p and woodland adjacent to our showroom attract nume birds, enabling visitors to test equipment in field conditi

Tripods include: SLIK, MANFROTTO and CULLMA

We also offer a wide range of accessories: EYECUPS, RAINGUARDS, LENS CAPS, LANYARD CASES, CLEANING KITS etc.

WE STOCK ONLY THE BEST!

'ROHAN' and 'CRAGHOPPERS'
A full range of Top Quality outdoor clothing for Bird Watchers and Ramblers.
Breathable Waterproof Jackets. Many sizes and colours to choose from.

'BRASHER' Boots
Comfortable, Lightweight Waterproof and Strong.

'MEPHISTO'
Boots and Shoes.
Sturdy and stylish - ideal for town and country!

'BILLINGHAM'
Camera & Equipment Bags
Waterproof, Adaptable and Strong.

BIRD TABLES and NEST BOXES.
A complete range of nest boxes and bat boxes, made to BTO specifications by a local craftsman.

BOOKS
Birds, Natural History, Wild Flowers, Insects, Field Guides, Monographs, Reference Books etc. from leading publishers.
WORLDWIDE COVERAGE
Book Tokens available and exchanged.

AUDIO CASSETTES
Bird call and song cassettes of birds in Britain and Europe.

VIDEO CASSETTES
RSPB, National Geographic, World of Survival, BBC. to entertain and increase your knowledge!

BAROMETERS
German movement, Double diaphram, Hand turned in various wood surrounds.

GREETINGS CARDS & Limited Edition Prints
by Wildlife Artist
David Fish

BIRD FOOD and FEEDERS
C. J. Wildbird Food.
All types and quantities with feeders to match. Simple wire cages to sophisticated large perspex feeders.

MAGAZINES
BIRDWATCH
BIRDING WORLD and BIRDWATCHING
are available from our showroom.

RSPB and BTO membership is available through Focus Optics.
JOIN NOW!

OPENING TIMES
Monday to Saturda 9am until 5pm
Plenty of FREE safe par
Send NOW for our lat Price Lists or visit ou showrooms.
Use your ACCESS or V card to order by teleph

E&OE

FIRST for Quality Service and Progress

The friendly experts professionals recommend!

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley Coventry, CV7 8BA

Telephone: 06 6-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-409

(197)

EASY ON THE EYE

The New High-Performance Lighter Weight 8 X 32 BA.

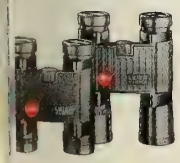


MADE BY LEICA

These good looking all purpose binoculars offer brilliant viewing and easy handling, with an optical system that gives optimal freedom from flare and perfect colour fidelity. With less than one rotation of the central drive the entire focusing range is revealed. Now it's easy to cover the ground, with a 135 metre field of view (at 1,000 metres) and close focusing to 3.25 metres. The New Leica 8 X 32 BA.
Easy on the eye but very hard to put down.

Leica

The freedom to see.



EICA BC/BCA range of compact
ulars: 8 X 20 BC/BCA and
5 BC/BCA.



The LEICA 42 series - 7 X 42 BA,
8 X 42 BA and 10 X 42 BA.
Now with the new 8 X 32 BA.

To Leica Camera Ltd. P.O. Box 10, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9BT. Or Telephone (0908 666663)
Please send me full details of LEICA Binoculars.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

LBB1192

D202

NATURETREK

PIONEERING BIRD TOURS YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!

Our 1993 Programme includes

ROMANIA 2nd - 9th January *£790*
A winter tour of the Danube Delta, in search of Europe's greatest concentration of wildfowl, waders and raptors.

VIETNAM 9th - 31st January *£2,500*
A tour of the national parks and bird sanctuaries of southern Vietnam.

MANAS... & THE JUNGLES OF BHUTAN 13th January - 5th February *£2,990*
One of the most exciting and pioneering of all bird tours. Black-necked Cranes, Ibisbills, and a selection of some of the rarest Babblers are amongst the highlights. 20 new species were added to the Bhutan list in 1992!

SOUTHERN INDIA 23rd January - 10th February *£2,290*
A tour of national parks and sanctuaries in search of southern India's endemic birds and mammals.

BHUTAN'S NORTHERN FRONTIER 7th - 30th April *£2,990*
The most challenging of all bird tours! Trekking the high terrain along Bhutan's northern border with Tibet, we will be the first ever naturalists to visit this area, and will be making a serious attempt to log its birdlife. New records for Bhutan are guaranteed; the enigmatic Takin is a possibility!

NEPAL'S LANGTANG TREK 30th April - 23rd May *£1,890*
A classic trek for those wishing to see the best of Nepal's upland breeding birds. Naturetrek leaders have trekked this route over 20 times, giving us an unrivalled knowledge of the region and where best to find such rarities as Gould's Shortwing and Satyr Tragopan.

FORBIDDEN FORESTS OF PAKISTAN 6th - 24th May *£1,700*
A quest for the Western Tragopan, perhaps the world's rarest pheasant.

NEPAL'S KANCHENJUNGA TREK 21st May - 20th June *£1,990*
Long and hard, but undoubtedly Nepal's best birding trek.

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA 12th - 28th November *£1,890*
A search for the endemic birds of the forests, lakes and spectacular gorges of northern Ethiopia.

NEW ZEALAND'S SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS 28th December - 14th January 1994 *from £2,000*
The most comprehensive cruise of the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand & Australia ever organised. To include the Chathams, Bounties, Antipodes, Campbell, Macquarrie, Auckland, Snares and Stewart Islands. A must for any seabird fanatic!

PLUS

GALAPAGOS · TANZANIA · KENYA · NAMIBIA · MALAWI · BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA
MOROCCO · NORTHERN INDIA · LADAKH · CHINA · TURKEY · AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND · THAILAND · NORTH BORNEO · NEWFOUNDLAND · CYPRUS
CRETE · CZECHOSLOVAKIA · CORSICA · GREECE · SPANISH & FRENCH PYRENEES

PRIVATE TOURS & FLIGHTS ARRANGED ON REQUEST

BONDED WITH ATTO TRUST 1040



RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

For our brochure please contact:
NATURETREK, CHAUTARA, BIGHTON, ALRESFORD, HANTS SO24 9RB. TEL: (0962) 733051

D07



British Birds

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 1992

Past, present and future

Ever since its inception in 1907, *British Birds* has served the birdwatching community by providing a balanced mixture of items covering almost all aspects of ornithology. We shall be continuing this record of service by introducing a number of exciting new developments in the near future; you will find 'BB' more valuable than ever.

Under the benevolent auspices of the publishing firms H. F. & G. Witherby (1907-72) and Macmillan (1973-80), *British Birds* provided the opportunity for serious amateurs as well as professional scientists to publish their work, ranging from papers on long-term studies carried out by an individual or team, and comprehensive summaries of the observations of many observers, to short notes on single observations. Many birdwatchers have seen their first words in print within the pages of *British Birds*; the same helping hand has been given to many young artists and photographers.

British Birds is now held in trust by members of the Editorial Board, being published by a non-profit-making company. It has been our aim to continue *British Birds'* long tradition of service. We aim to ensure that *British Birds* remains the journal of record, documenting for posterity—as well as for its current readers—the changing patterns of the birds of Britain and Ireland, within a European or West Palearctic context.

Papers on topics such as the irruption of Jays *Garrulus glandarius* in 1983 and the recent invasion of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* (*Brit. Birds* 78: 611-637; 85: 16-21), the identification of marsh terns *Chlidonias* (*Brit. Birds* 82: 296-319) and the life of the Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (*Brit. Birds* 84: 555-569), together with the official annual reports of the Rarities Committee and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, make up the essence of *British Birds*. We also aim to use our influence to continue to encourage the very best in bird photography and bird illustration, through the annual competitions 'Bird Photograph of the Year' and 'Bird Illustrator of the Year'.*

British Birds will be developing in line with the changing interests of birders, and the changes which are 'in the pipeline' will make '*BB*' essential reading over the next few years. At the same time, we aim to maintain our reputation for being authoritative and reliable—the journal of the official record—whilst also being accessible and readable for the ordinary birdwatcher. The answers to our questionnaire in the June issue have been collated and form the basis for the directions in which '*BB*' will develop. Certain less-popular items will be severely pruned, the more popular features expanded, and new ones introduced. Watch these pages! EDS

*The sponsorship from *Carl Zeiss—Germany* (the Rarities Committee), Christopher Helm Publishers and HarperCollins Publishers (Bird Photograph of the Year) and *Kowa* telescopes (Bird Illustrator of the Year) provides extra pages within *British Birds* for these features.

Dispersal and age of first breeding of Buzzards in Central Wales



P. E. Davis and J. E. Davis

During the four years 1975-78, we studied the ecology of carrion-feeding birds in the uplands of Central Wales. The Buzzard *Buteo buteo* was one of the species investigated. Most of our observations were made within a defined study area, about 35 km from north to south, and about 13 km east to west, in the southwestern part of the Cambrian Mountains, between Devil's Bridge and Rhandirmwyn in Dyfed. Among previous publications from the project, one in particular relates to Buzzard ecology, and also describes the study area in some detail (Newton *et al.* 1982).

The area contained about 140 Buzzard breeding territories and, after partial coverage in 1975, we located the nests in most of them during 1976-78. Some 234 young Buzzards were ringed (mostly broods of one chick), and 215 of them were also fitted with numbered plastic patagial wing-tags, on both wings. A different colour was employed for each year-class (yellow 1975, white 1976, green 1977, orange 1978), so an individual's age could easily be determined, even if the inscription could not be read. Some tags were lost or broken after about four years, but others remained legible for up to 12 years, and several marked Buzzards were still known in 1990. The results from this marking programme are the subject of the present paper, which is concerned mainly with movements and age of first breeding.

The Buzzard project ended just as those marked were beginning to enter the breeding population, and no resources were available to support a systematic search for them after 1978. Fortunately, however, we had other duties in the general area in succeeding years, and a good many marked Buzzards came to our notice, or were reported by colleagues and the public, within and outside the original study area.

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 578-587, November 1992]

Records of marked Buzzards

In this section, 'winter' means August to March, the period outside the breeding season, while 'summer' is April to July, the Buzzard breeding season.

First winter

Seventy marked Buzzards were seen during their first winter of life, of which 46 were individually identified. Out of the 46, 18 had remained local to their birthplace (1 km or less); they were seen in August (3), September (1), October (2), November (5), December (3), January (4) and February (5), so most of them did not move out in early autumn, and some certainly stayed all winter. It was common to hear juveniles calling, soliciting food, through September, and some even later.

Twenty-eight Buzzards made recorded movements of more than 1 km from their birthplace in the first winter. Distances travelled ranged from 3 to 200 km, average 31 km (but this figure will be biased towards shorter movements, since we were more likely to see and record the marked birds ourselves). The longer movements, mostly revealed by dead Buzzards reported by the general public, included records from 200 km southeast (Hampshire), 110 km SSE (South Glamorgan), 70 km northeast (Shropshire), 72 km ENE (Herefordshire), and 70 km WSW and 50 km west (both within Dyfed).

Of the 24 Buzzards not individually recognised, 18 were still in the study area (4 in September, 1 October, 5 November, 1 December, 3 January, 2 February, 4 March), while six were outside it, having travelled minimum distances of 11-80 km from the nearest nest where young were marked. The two longest movements were over 80 km WSW (Dyfed) and over 73 km northeast (Clwyd).

Although two Buzzards had shifted 36 km and 43 km by late August, and a third 37 km by mid September, none of the movements over 50 km was reported before December. During August to November, 11 records averaged only 17 km. From December to March, 22 records averaged 37 km. Clearly, some of the longer movements could have been completed earlier in the season, but the general implication of the records seems to be that both the time of departure from the natal territory and the subsequent dispersal of young Buzzards may be spread over several months, and not contained within a short 'dispersal season' in the early autumn. Some indication of nomadic behaviour by a few individuals is provided by multiple tag sightings. One individual was 6 km west of its birthplace on 28th October, then 6 km farther northeast (and 6 km NNW of the nest) by 28th November. A second was seen 4 km SSE of the nest on 10th and 16th November, 7 km farther northwest (and 5 km from the nest) by 15th December, and 2 km farther west the next day. A third had shifted 15 km northwest by 20th December, but moved again 2 km southwest by 30th January and another 1 km south by 2nd February (it was still at the latter site in May). Others, having shifted in the autumn, evidently became sedentary later in the season. One that had moved 70 km by late December was still in the same place in March. Two individuals 4 km and 7 km from the nest by January stayed there through February. Several were located in subsequent years, in sites they had reached in the first winter.

Apart from those Buzzards that remained within the natal territory all winter, juveniles tended to live in places known to be peripheral to the territories of adults, or to congregate around good food sources such as abattoirs, refuse tips, and sheep carcases. Presumably, harassment by territorial adults, or competition with them, contributed to the choice of locality and to the wandering behaviour of some individuals.

First summer

At least 18 different Buzzards were seen, of which ten were individually identified. Sixteen were within the study area, two just outside it. At least five were local to their birthplace, and none had shifted more than 9 km. Only three of those identified had been certainly recorded in the first winter; one had moved 5 km farther northeast since the previous November, and the other two were in the same location.

Most of these individuals were living in gaps in the pattern of breeding territories, or near territorial boundaries. Eight were in open hill ground with few or no potential nest sites. None was known to be mated, and apparently none attempted to breed. Three multiple

sightings in the same places (April twice, April-May, April-June) showed, however, that some had settled.

Second winter

Some 23 Buzzards were located, and 13 certainly identified. Of these, only one was within 1 km of its birthplace, though four others were within 5 km and five within 20 km. One, however, was 295 km NNE (Cumbria, August), and another 72 km northeast (Shropshire, January); a third was 28 km southwest. Only two had previously been identified with certainty in their first year. One was 6 km southwest by December, having spent most of its first winter (to at least January) on its home territory. The other, in its second November, was still where it had been seen in April. Seven unidentified individuals were still within the study area, two only 2 km and 6 km outside it, but one at least 21 km east (Powys, March).

Several repeat sightings (August-September, September-October, September-December, December-February, December-March, early and late January) showed the sedentary behaviour of some individuals; and, indeed, there was no clear evidence of any significant movement during the second winter. Most Buzzards could have stayed in locations they reached in the first winter.

Second summer

Thirteen Buzzards, seven individually identified, were found during their second summer of life. One of them, a male, bred successfully only 2 km west of its birthplace, and close to where it had been seen the previous November. Another male, unidentified, was reported copulating in early April, at a location where it had previously been found in March of its first winter, at least 73 km northeast of its birthplace (Clwyd). We do not know if it bred, but clearly it had settled and paired, after making a distant movement as a juvenile.

Of the remaining 11 individuals, ten were certainly non-breeders, all within the study area, one still on the edge of its natal territory, and none was known to be more than 10 km from its birthplace. The other one died in July, outside the area, 8 km from its original nest, and its status is unknown. Two were summering (in May) in a different place from earlier winter sightings: one 5 km from its first-winter site (January-February), the other 5 km from its second-winter location (November).

Only three of the second-summer individuals could be said to be in fringe locations unsuitable for breeding; and, again, there were multiple records (April-May, April-July) which showed attachment to one locality.

Third winter

Probably 17 different marked Buzzards were seen during the third winter; ten certainly and two probably identified. One died in August, 104 km NNE of its birthplace (Clwyd), and another died in December, 31 km SSE (Powys). A third was seen, but not identified, at least 10 km west of the nearest marking-site, in August; a fourth was found dead just outside the study area in October, and a fifth was seen in the same place in March.

The remaining 12 were all within or on the fringes of the study area. Two were local to their birthplace; the others had shifted 2-12 km. They included the second-summer breeder, still on territory in October, and at least three other individuals, in March, on territories they were to occupy during the third summer. Several, however, wintered near the abattoirs (one October-March, two in February), or were seen in other places peripheral to breeding territories. At least two, besides the second-year breeder, wintered in the same place as they had the previous year.

Third summer

Eleven Buzzards located and seven identified, all within the study area. Four males and one female bred for the first time: the males at locations between 4 km and 10 km from the birthplace, the female under 2 km. In each case, they replaced a different, untagged individual of the previous year. Two of the males and the female reared young, two males failed. Two other males were paired and holding territories, but apparently did not breed, one only 1 km, the other less than 2 km from the natal site. The latter territory was very small, sandwiched between two other well-established ones. Two further individuals were certainly non-breeders and apparently unmated. The remaining two were detected only once (April, May), and nothing is known about them.

One breeding and two non-breeding males had previously been recorded on the same territories in March of their third winter, but not earlier. Another breeding male had been seen in its second winter (December to March) 10 km WNW of its birthplace, and had subsequently shifted 10 km northeast to breed 10 km north of its natal site—the longest movement recorded for any of our Buzzards after its second winter. The breeding female had been around her birthplace in her first winter and probably first summer, also in her second summer (July), and had subsequently moved a very short distance to fill a vacancy in a neighbouring territory. None of the other birds had been certainly identified before.

Fourth winter

Twelve Buzzards found, and nine of them identified. They included five of the seven paired individuals of the previous summer, and very probably the two whose status was then

257. Buzzard *Buteo buteo* at nest with young, Dyfed, summer 1984 (*Roger Wilmshurst*)



unknown, all in the same locations. One turned up again near the abattoir where it had spent the two preceding winters; its summer location was never discovered, but could have been very near. Another, previously undetected, was found dead at the boundary of the study area in March. One was recorded all winter in the same fringe area where it had been observed in its first summer and second winter, only 1 km from its birthplace. The other two, both unidentified, had no previous recorded history.

Fourth summer

Sixteen Buzzards seen, nine positively identified. Ten were known to be breeding, including four of those that bred in the third summer. The two males paired in their third summer now bred for the first time, 1-2 km from where they were reared; the one with the very small territory in the third summer had now enlarged it considerably at the expense of its neighbours, one of which was also a first-time breeder. This latter individual, a female, was never certainly identified. Another female bred for the first time, 3 km from where she was reared. The other two breeders, neither of them identified, were of uncertain sex and previously unknown status. One was within the study area, the other was 3 km outside it.

The six remaining individuals included at least three on territory, one known to be paired, but status otherwise uncertain; two seen only on single occasions, one in a remote open hill location very unlikely to be a breeding territory; and finally one seen in April 210 km southeast of the study area (Dorset).

Fifth winter

Five Buzzards located, but only one identified, a breeding male of the previous summer, on his territory. Three others were in the study area, but none appeared to be any known individual among the summer residents. The fifth individual was reported twice, in February and March, at least 15 km northwest of the nearest territory in the study area, and presumably it had settled there.

Fifth summer

Again only five Buzzards known, four of them identified. All five were breeding, including four from the previous year. The other was almost certainly a first-time breeder, a female nesting 34 km from her birthplace, just outside the study area, but in a location visited regularly by us in earlier years.

258. Buzzard *Buteo buteo* at prey, with Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* and Magpie *Pica pica*, Dyfed, mid January 1983 (*A. T. Moffett*)



Later years

A small number of marked Buzzards continued to be seen in every year, up to the thirteenth summer. Most seen in summer, from the sixth summer onwards, were shown to be breeders, and none was proved or suspected to be a non-breeder. Many records referred to individuals already recorded as breeders by the fifth summer, but new ones were discovered in several years, most if not all presumably overlooked before. In the sixth summer, seven individuals included one previously unrecorded breeding female, just outside the study area, and only 2 km from her birthplace. Another breeding male had hitherto been reported only outside the breeding season, but in the same general area only 1 km from where he was reared. Six records in the seventh summer included two previously unknown breeders, both unsexed and unidentified, one in the study area, the other about 7 km outside it. Another, of unknown status, but near a known nesting site, was 15 km from the nearest site in the study area. Other 'new' individuals were first recorded in the ninth winter (February), status unknown, within the study area; in tenth winter (August) 8 km from the birthplace and outside our area; in tenth summer (April), sex and status unknown, dead, 4 km from where it was reared; in eleventh summer, unsexed and unidentified, breeding at the edge of the study area; and in twelfth summer, a breeding male within the area, 8 km from his birthplace. This last individual had previously been identified some 8 km to the east (and 10 km north of his natal site) in his second April, the second-longest movement known to have been made by any of our Buzzards after its first winter.

Records from before 1975

Five recoveries of Buzzards ringed in the study area before 1975 supplement the records from the main study period. Two were in the second summer; one 'local' in April, the other 80 km ESE (Herefordshire) in May. One was found 60 km SSE (South Glamorgan) in December of the fifth winter, and another 61 km north (Gwynedd) in January of the sixth winter. One veteran died in July or August, at the age of just over 19 years, 45 km NNW of its birthplace (Gwynedd).

Conclusions

Juvenile Buzzards from Central Wales varied greatly in their mobility, ranging from the completely sedentary to one which travelled 200 km from its birthplace. Most juveniles shifted away from their natal territory at some time during their first autumn and winter, though many moved only a few kilometres. The period during which this movement took place seemed to be rather protracted, not limited to a short season in the autumn. The most distant recoveries were later in the season, from December onwards. Some juveniles remained nomadic well into the new year, while others soon settled in a new location and remained there. Those that remained in or near the study area tended to live in loose groups near good food sources, or to occupy places on the periphery of adult territories, or in gaps in the breeding distribution (usually resulting from the absence of viable nest sites).

From the first summer onwards, at all seasons, Buzzards of all age-groups, in and near the study area, remained remarkably sedentary. There is no firm evidence of any movement of more than about 10 km, and hardly any of more than 2-3 km. Distant recoveries continued to be reported, however, up to the twentieth year of life. In view of the sedentary condition of local Buzzards, after their first year, these distant birds had probably emigrated in the first winter, and stayed away. In fact, one second-summer male is known to have settled and mated in a locality at least 73 km from the study area, where he was first recorded over a year earlier. Evidently, the Central Wales population exports a proportion of

its juveniles, some to as far as Cumbria, Hampshire and Dorset. This is an interesting finding, since it shows the potential for recolonisation of areas where Buzzards have been exterminated by man, provided a healthy donor population can be maintained in Wales. The longer movements are plotted in fig. 1.

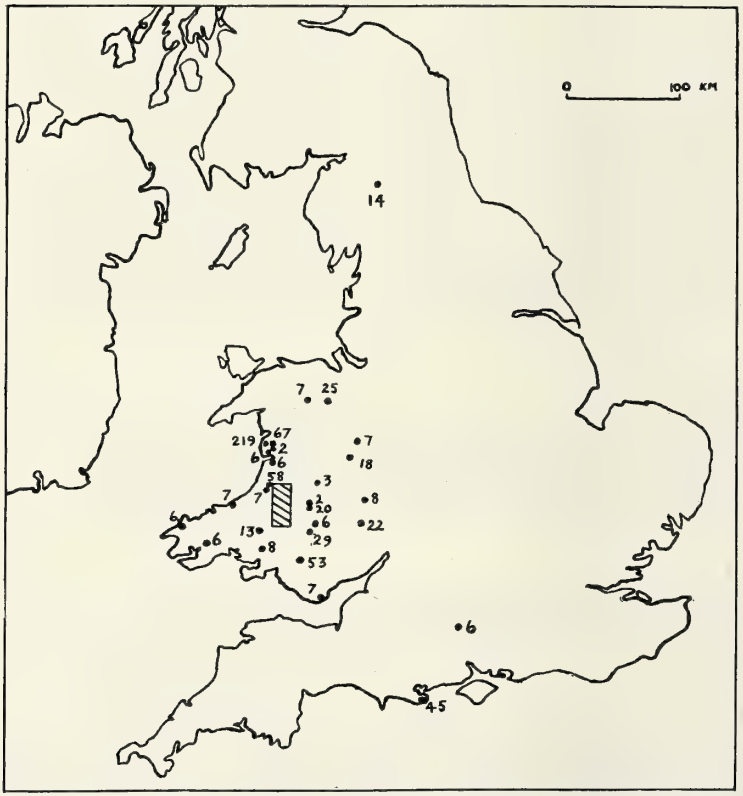


Fig. 1. Movements of over 20 km of Buzzards *Buteo buteo* marked in Central Wales study area (shaded). Figures give elapsed time (in months) between marking and recovery

Recorded directions of movement during the juvenile dispersal appear to be random, allowing for the fact that any shifting northwestwards were more likely to be seen by us, because we lived in that sector of the study area. The most distant recoveries were inevitably in the eastern half of the compass, since westerly movement was contained by the proximity of the west coast. Buzzards were also more likely to be recovered dead if they had penetrated the lowland areas where rearing and preservation of Pheasants *Phasianus colchicus* is general, on the English borders and beyond. The pattern of movement in the first winter is broadly confirmed by recoveries and sightings in later years, as would be expected if they resulted from the same juvenile dispersal (see table 1). The median distance of movement for 38 'random' recoveries and sightings reported by the general public is 40 km. There is as yet no evidence of a return movement after emigration, but this would be more difficult to obtain.

Table 1. Movements of Buzzards *Buteo buteo* marked in Central Wales

Includes all recorded movements of over 2 km of identified birds, and those more than 20 km outside the study area of unidentified birds. Repeat sightings at one location not included

	DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT			
	N-ENE	E-SSE	S-WSW	W-NNW
First winter/summer	9	6	8	17
Second winter onward	10	10	10	11
Totals	19	16	18	28

Previous studies of marked British Buzzards, notably those in the New Forest (Tubbs 1974) and in the Spey Valley in northeastern Scotland (Picozzi & Weir 1976), also show a probably random dispersal, mostly over rather short distances, during the first winter.

Some Scottish Buzzards were able to defend sizeable territories in their first winter, but this was mainly associated with the artificial removal of adults. Such territories tended to be ephemeral, and most first-summer individuals in Speyside lived rather secretively in small ranges (Weir & Picozzi 1983). In Central Wales, there was little indication of settlement into viable territories by the first summer (though two were seen close to where they subsequently bred). Even by the second summer, only a small proportion of Welsh Buzzards were able to establish themselves on full territories, and, out of 12 individuals well documented in that season, only one male bred. This is in marked contrast to the situation on Speyside, where one first-summer individual nested and was suspected to have laid eggs, and probably a majority of second-summer Buzzards bred, though some did not (Picozzi & Weir 1974; Picozzi *in litt.*). Persecution by gamekeepers and shepherds was commonplace on Speyside, evidently creating many vacancies. Very little persecution occurred in Central Wales, and Buzzard population densities were greater; almost all suitable breeding areas were in use, so that young Buzzards could have experienced difficulty in finding vacancies within the existing breeding distribution. By the third summer, however, most marked Buzzards in our study area had established territories of normal extent, and five (four males, one female) bred for the first time, out of nine well-documented individuals. By the fourth summer, at least ten out of 16 Buzzards were breeding, four certainly for the first time (two males, two females), and only one was definitely a non-breeder. One female apparently did not breed until her fifth summer; otherwise, most of those of five summers or older were known to be breeding, and none was certainly not breeding. It seems reasonable to accept that virtually all Buzzards in this population will be breeding by the fifth summer. No Buzzard, having bred, was located in later years, summer or winter, outside its original breeding territory, from records of 33 in summer and 16 in winter. Adults in Speyside, while tending to remain attached to one territory, were often obliged by persecution to shift some distance, to find new mates (Weir & Picozzi 1983).

Only eight breeders in our area had been identified as pre-breeders after their first winter. Six of these had remained within 2-3 km of their natal site throughout, and eventually established themselves as breeders

without moving farther afield. The other two provided the only significant evidence of movement after the first year of life. One spent its second winter 10 km WNW of where it was reared, then shifted a further 10 km northeast to breed in its third summer, now 10 km north of its birthplace. The other was seen 10 km NNE of its natal site in April of its second summer, but moved 8 km west at some later time, to be located eventually, in its twelfth summer, breeding 8 km NNW of its birthplace.

In total, 18 of our marked Buzzards were found on breeding territories within the study area, and four just outside it. They included nine males, five females, and eight unsexed. Five others were recorded only in winter, in their fifth or later years, but presumably they too were on breeding territories. Five more were reported well outside the study area, from their fifth year onwards, two over 60 km away.

The age at first breeding was recorded for 11 individuals. They entered the breeding population at the age of two to five years, average 3.5 years. The remainder could have been present and breeding before they were found. Available data for all the breeders and presumed breeders are given in table 2. The apparent lack of marked females recruited to the breeding population in the study area could be due to wider dispersal by young females, as was found for the Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* by Newton (1979); but most of those we located had moved only very short distances. The data also hint that females in this population may start breeding later than males (seven males first bred at average 3.1 years, four females at 4.0 years), but this needs confirmation.

Table 2. Breeding records of tagged Buzzards *Buteo buteo* in Central Wales
'W' or 'S' refers to approximate direction, since exact point of origin unknown

Tag details	Sex	Age at first breeding (years)	Distance and direction from birthplace
Orange N4	Male	2	2 km W
Yellow C0	Male	3	5 km E
Yellow C1	Male	3	10 km N
Yellow E2	Male	3	4 km SW
White J5	Female	3	2 km N
Green L4	Male	3	4 km N
Yellow D2	Female	4	3 km NNW
Orange N9	Male	4	1 km E
Orange P3	Male	4	2 km SE
Orange –	Female	4	–
Orange P4	Female	5	34 km NNW
White –	–	by 4	–
Green –	–	by 4	3+ km 'W'
White I8	Female	by 6	2 km E
Orange O2	Male	by 6	1 km S
Green –	–	by 7	–
Green P0	–	by 7?	1 km N
Orange –	–	by 7	7+ km 'S'
Green T4	–	by 9?	8 km NNW
Orange P6	–	by 10?	4 km SW
Green –	–	by 11	–
Yellow E1	Male	by 12	8 km NNW

Acknowledgments

The 'Carrion-feeding Birds in Central Wales' project was commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, and was supervised by Dr Ian Newton, who commented on the first draft of the present paper. We are grateful to N. Picozzi for instruction in the art of wing-tagging and for other advice; and to J. A. Humphrey, H. Ostroznik, H. W. Roderick, and many others who assisted in the field.

Summary

The movements and settlement of ringed and colour-marked Buzzards *Buteo buteo* from a Central Wales study area are described. While many juveniles remained relatively sedentary, some shifted up to 200 km. Departure and movement continued through the first winter of life. The direction of movement seemed to be random. Older Buzzards, after their first winter, were remarkably sedentary, and many which had travelled to distant places as juveniles remained there. Few Buzzards in Central Wales were able to establish themselves on viable territories by their second summer, though most did so by their third. The age of first breeding of 11 individuals ranged from two to five years, average 3.5 years.

References

NEWTON, I. 1979. *Population Ecology of Raptors*. Berkhamsted.

——, DAVIS, P. E., & DAVIS, J. E. 1982. Ravens and Buzzards in relation to sheep-farming and forestry in Wales. *J. Appl. Ecol.* 19: 681-706.

PICOZZI, N., & WEIR, D. N. 1974. Breeding biology of the Buzzard in Speyside. *Brit. Birds* 67: 199-210.

—— & —— 1976. Dispersal and causes of death in Buzzards. *Brit. Birds* 69: 193-201.

TUBBS, C. R. 1974. *The Buzzard*. London.

WEIR, D. N., & PICOZZI, N. 1983. Dispersion of Buzzards in Speyside. *Brit. Birds* 76: 66-78.

P. E. Davis, Wildlife Surveys (Wales), Felindre, Aberarth, Aberaeron, Dyfed SA46 0LP
J. E. Davis, Nature Conservancy Council, Minawel, Ffair Rhos, Ystrad Meurig, Dyfed SY25 6BN

Identification pitfalls and assessment problems*

This series, which started in January 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28), is not intended to cover all facets of the identification of the species concerned, but only the major sources of error likely to mislead the observer in the field or the person attempting to assess the written evidence. The species concerned are mostly those which were formerly judged by the Rarities Committee, but which are now the responsibility of county and regional recorders and records committees.

14. Crane *Grus grus*

The Crane is a regular visitor to Britain and by the time it was removed from the Rarities List after the end of 1987 there had been over 1,242 records in the previous 30 years. During the period 1965-74, the average number of records per year was six, but the corresponding figure for 1975-84 (excluding 1982) was 28. There have been large influxes of Cranes in some years, no-

*This paper, like those earlier in the series (*Brit. Birds* 76: 26-28, 78-80, 129-130, 203-206, 304-305, 342-345; 77: 412-415; 78: 97-102; 81: 126-134; 84: 145-148; 85: 21-24, 437-439, 491-494), is a publication of the Rarities Committee, which is sponsored by *CARL ZEISS—Germany*.

tably over 500 in 1963, over 200 in 1982 and 111 in 1985. In recent years, Cranes have made a welcome return to East Anglia as a breeding species.

The biggest problem of identification and of assessing records of Cranes is one of assumption and of prior image. Most birders could write a fairly accurate description of a Crane (even if they have never seen one) far more easily than they could describe in detail the plumage of a Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. In fact, observers need to exercise caution when claiming records of Crane, as there are a number of similar pitfall species that need to be eliminated. Although it is probably more likely that any large crane-like bird is in fact a Crane rather than a Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*, a Sarus Crane *G. antigone* or a Sandhill Crane *G. canadensis*, any acceptable description still needs to rule out these superficially similar species. Records of cranes seen only in flight, at great range or in poor light may not be specifically identifiable.

Apart from other species of cranes, it is also necessary to eliminate Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Although this might sound facile—the sort of mistake that only a complete beginner would make—there are circumstances when Grey Herons can appear remarkably crane-like. I have seen a flock of 16 Grey Herons in a V-formation coming in high over the sea with their necks held outstretched for some minutes. The strongly bowed wings, with characteristic deep flaps, and white 'leading lights' on the edge of the forewing, however, together with the long, pale yellow or pinkish bill, should be obvious. The normal flight shape of a retracted neck with a deep bulge at once separates any heron from any species of crane. On the other hand, skeins of Canada Geese *Branta canadensis* have been mistakenly claimed as Cranes, so other species of broad-winged birds may need to be eliminated.

259. Adult Crane *Grus grus*, Norway, June 1951 (*Edvard K. Barth*)



The most likely confusion species is Demoiselle Crane, a species which is becoming increasingly scarce on its breeding grounds in eastern Turkey and the southern CIS, but which is commonly kept in captivity both in Britain and, especially, on the Continent (T. P. Inskipp verbally). This is a smaller, more delicate bird, which is best distinguished from Crane by its blackish breast feathers, white tuft on hindneck, pale crown and shorter bill. When standing, the tertials can be seen to be long, pointed and sleek in appearance, rather than broad and rather 'untidy' as are those of Crane. The white stripe on the head may resemble that of Crane at times, although, when seen clearly, the tufted appearance is diagnostic. Perhaps the most important feature, both in flight and when standing, is the extent of black on the breast. Often, the long, black breast feathers hang down loosely, giving a slightly shaggy appearance, although, at times, these feathers may be held closely against the body and appear quite smooth. In flight, these black feathers reach to about as far as the centre of the wingbase, which is diagnostic. On Crane, the black extends from the face to the lower neck, but never reaches the breast. On some occasions, however, especially in a side view, it can be very difficult to assess the extent of black on the breast. The paler grey, less brownish upperparts of Demoiselle Crane are a useful feature, but this may also be difficult to judge if the bird is viewed against strong light. One should also be

260. Adult Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*, Kazakhstan (*E. Golvanova*)





261. Cranes *Grus grus*, France, November 1985 (*Chris Steeman*)



262. Adult Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*, Turkey, August 1985 (*Oran O'Sullivan*)

263. Adult Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*, Mongolia, June 1981 (*Günter Rinnhofer*)

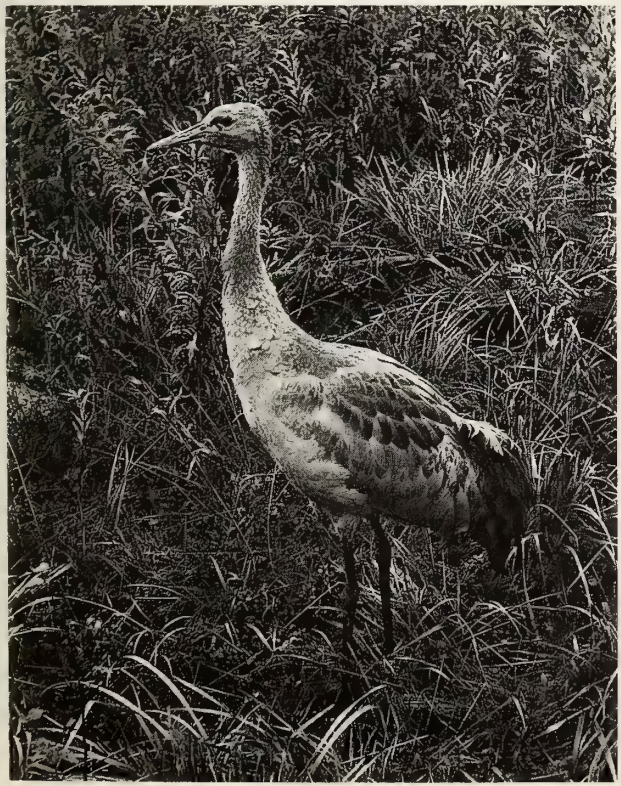


aware that the eastern race of Crane, *G. g. lilfordi*, may appear paler than European individuals, and that the red patch on the crown of adults of that race is restricted or lacking.

In flight, the wings of Crane generally appear more even in width than those of Demoiselle Crane. The wings usually narrow towards the body, whereas the wings of Demoiselle Crane are slightly broader at the base than at the 'hand'. Both species have blackish primaries, greater primary coverts and secondaries, which contrast with the grey underwing-coverts or upperwing-coverts. Despite its smaller size, the wingbeats of Demoiselle Crane are actually slower than are those of Crane: Demoiselle Crane flaps the entire wing, while Crane moves only the outer part of the wing, in shallower wingbeats.

Although there are only three records of Sandhill Crane in Britain and Ireland, and one in the Faroe Islands, it is worth remembering that the one which occurred on Fair Isle, Shetland, in April 1981 was initially dismissed by some observers as a Crane. Sandhill Cranes are rather variable in size, and fall between Demoiselle Crane and Crane. The plumage of adults is uniformly pale grey, with a dark red patch on the forehead and crown. The long, rather fine bill is dark greenish, and the legs are grey. The plumage may be stained with iron oxide, which can give a reddish or sandy-brown tinge, sometimes

264. Juvenile Crane *Grus grus*, Karel'skaya, Russia, September 1955 (*I. Neufeldt*)



with a blotchy pattern. Immatures are more reddish-brown or buffy-grey in colour, and have pale, flesh-coloured bills, which become darker with age. The tertials are broad-tipped and hang down in a bunch, in a similar manner to those of Crane. In flight, the outer primaries are black, contrasting slightly with the dark grey secondaries. The lack of a prominent 'face pattern' and the uniformly grey or buffy-grey plumage are the best features for separating this species from Crane, but note that juvenile Cranes have relatively plain brownish heads and, in this respect, are similar to juvenile Sandhill Cranes.

Sarus Crane, which may be encountered as an escape from collections, is very large and uniformly pale grey, with whitish tertials and lower neck, dull pinkish legs, a rather long, grey bill, and, on adults, a red 'face', throat and nape. In flight, only the outer primaries are black, the secondaries and inner primaries being pale grey.

Other species of crane may also escape from captivity. The first crane that I saw in Britain was a crowned crane *Balearica* perched in a treetop near the River Thames in Surrey. Both Grey Crowned Crane *B. pavonina* and Black Crowned Crane *B. regulorum* are kept in captivity and have been reported as escapes. These two species are so distinctive, however, that they are unlikely to be confused with Crane.

IAIN S. ROBERTSON
1 Central Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 2PZ

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by
SUNBIRD

The plummeting raptor (plate 181) was named as:

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*	(78%)
Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*	(8%)
Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*	(6%)

with a few votes each for Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*, Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae* and Peregrine *F. peregrinus*, and two votes for Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

It was indeed a Booted Eagle, photographed by Pierre Petit in France in 1966. Of the eight leading contenders, one failed at this stage—very tough luck after succeeding with 15 in a row. Those still in the hunt are G. P. Catley, Roy Hargreaves, Hannu Jännes, P. G. Lansdown, Pekka J. Nikander and Dave Nurney (all on 16 in a row) and Dr S. K. Armstrong (on 15 in a row). The September and October photographs (plates 214 and 256) may have proved to be stumbling blocks, and we may by now have a winner. Plate 265, therefore, may be the first or second photograph in a new, sixth 'Marathon', or be the twenty-eighth stage in the fifth, long-running 'Marathon'. The winner will be able to choose a SUNBIRD birdwatching holiday in Africa, Asia or North America as his/her prize.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF, or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.

265. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-eighth stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 77). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th December 1992



Mystery photographs

182 Even with it in silhouette, the majority of readers would surely recognise the dagger-like bill, flat crown with crest, fairly elongated wings and shortish tarsi of last month's mystery bird (plate 254, reproduced here in black-and-white) as a tern (Sternidae). With the original photograph in colour, the elimination process is further hastened by noting the orange bill, white forehead and black rear crown, grey mantle and dark primaries, plus black legs and feet. Yes, this is another of those much-discussed, large, orange-billed terns of which five species are initially 'in the frame'. This discounts the South American race of the Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha*, sometimes known as 'Cayenne Tern', the bill of which is usually yellow (some populations have variable amounts of black, and rarely the bill may be orange-red or red), and is, in any case, far slimmer.



Crested Tern *S. bergii* is usually depicted as being much darker on the mantle and wings than this individual—note that much of the wings in the photograph appears darkened by shadow—but in an earlier text in this series (*Brit. Birds* 85: 112-113) it was pointed out that the race *thalassina* of East Africa and the western Indian Ocean islands is much paler. Crested Tern can, however, be quickly eliminated, as its bill is usually greenish-yellow (and never bright orange) and has a more pronounced decurvature to the upper mandible, creating a drooping appearance. At this juncture, it is worth pointing out that this

bird shows none of the darker feathers that would indicate juvenile plumage and, furthermore, the white forehead is indicative of a bird out of full breeding dress.

Although our mystery bird has quite a robust look, it does not have the truly massive bill that characterises Caspian Tern *S. caspia*, which is by some way the largest of the group. Furthermore, the adult bill of that species is generally more of a blood-red, often with a dark subterminal area and, sometimes, also a paler tip.

We are now left with three species to consider: Royal Tern *S. maxima*, Lesser Crested Tern *S. bengalensis* and Elegant Tern *S. elegans*. Adults of all three can have genuinely orange bills, white foreheads in winter and significant crests. Royal is substantially larger than the other two, but the size of a lone individual is difficult to judge.

A number of British-based observers will by now have had the opportunity to compare Lesser Crested with the only fractionally smaller Sandwich Tern and will have noted that the former's bill, though slightly deeper-based, still retains a fairly slender, pointed look. Also, its mantle is a slightly darker shade of grey than that of Sandwich, whereas the mystery bird's is pale and the bill is quite hefty.

In contrast, there are, as yet, West Palearctic records of Elegant Tern only in Ireland and France. With its normal range confined to the west coast of the Americas, far fewer British birdwatchers have field experience of it, myself included, but the literature indicates a proportionately long bill, often with a distinct droop, and, in winter plumage, the black on the rear crown and crest extends farther forward to enclose the eye.

We are left, therefore, with Royal Tern and this is, indeed, the correct solution to last month's 'Mystery photograph'. The picture was taken by Dr Michael Hollings in the Morrocoy National Park, Venezuela, on 9th March 1988, which conveniently places it in the nominate American race. The West African race *albididorsalis* is said to have a finer, more tapered bill, less dagger-like than its New World counterpart.

Other identification points not brought out by the photograph include, first, rump and tail colour. On Royal, Elegant and Caspian, these are white or pale grey; on Lesser Crested, bluish-grey; and, on Crested, dark grey. Royal and Crested Tern are, of course, both appreciably bigger than Lesser Crested and Elegant, approximating in size to Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, with Caspian even larger. It is also worth noting that Royal Tern only briefly retains the wholly black crown of full breeding plumage, so that the appearance as shown in the photograph is the one most frequently encountered.

The discerning reader will note that I have not, so far, discussed the gonydeal angle of the bill. Among the species compared above, this feature is most pronounced on Caspian Tern and is generally said to be more evident on Royal (nominate race) and Lesser Crested than on Elegant. Rarely, on the last species, a slight angle is apparent, but in a more proximal position, only about half-way along the lower mandible. Certainly, there are individual variations in this character, which, to my eye, is not a striking feature of the mystery bird .

SIMON COX

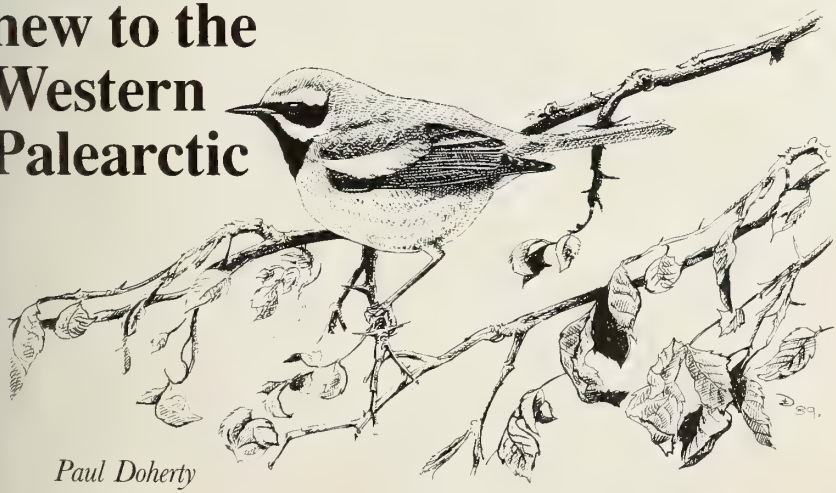
754 St John's Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO16 8BN

The inclusion in colour of plate 267 has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany.*



267. Mystery photograph 183. Identify the species. Answer next month

Golden-winged Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic



Paul Doherty

On 24th January 1989, Mrs C. Miller noticed a colourful bird feeding in the garden of her house at Larkfield, Kent. Though not a birdwatcher, she realised that it was unusual, and made a drawing of it. Three days later, it reappeared, and Mr Miller managed to take some photographs of it. Enquiries were begun as to the identity of this strange bird.

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 595-606, November 1992]







THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



arl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved a world wide reputation for excellence.

In their latest Binocular Survey, the ers of the universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockport; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J E Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Street; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Street; Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Street, Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange Ltd, High Holborn; Vic Odden Photographic Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Technical (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City, Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd, The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverpool
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hanningtons Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coventry; Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihull; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exchange Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photographic, Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Leeds; Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds; Coverdale & Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & Sons, Harrogate; Walkers Studios, Scarborough; Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheffield

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywear, Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles Frank
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritchies, Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports

Plus all branches of LONDON CAMERA EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the country.

If you require further information about Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write to: Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O Box 78, Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

ZEISS
Germany
Carl Zeis
(D9



Experience bird-watching in a whole new light.

Witness the best that nature has to offer through the eyes of the new EDII A angled body type Fieldscope.

Its one-piece advanced prism design reflects 100% light for brighter viewing from dawn to dusk. And a new 30x wide eyepiece offers a wider view field at higher magnification.

For a closer look at the best range of binoculars and Fieldscopes in the world, zoom into your nearest Nikon dealer or binocular specialist.



Nikon's advanced prism design



10x40DCF HP RA



8x30ECF WF



Fieldscope EDII

Fieldscope EDII / II and 8x30ECF WF recommended by *British Birds* magazine

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON UK LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584
Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

10-YEAR WARRANTY

In the meantime, on 7th February, whilst on my way to post a letter at the opposite end of the Lunsford Park Estate, I chanced upon the same bird.

It was very striking. There were obvious lemon-yellow patches on the crown and greater coverts, a black patch running back from the bill and around the eye, and a broad black bib. The remainder of the upperparts were basically greyish, and the underparts were whitish. I judged the size as similar to that of a Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

I did not have any binoculars with me, but the bird was remarkably tame and I was able to watch it for about three minutes at ranges down to 2 m before it flew off.

My first reaction was that it was an American wood-warbler (Parulidae). After only a few seconds' thought, however, I dismissed that possibility as far too fanciful. The date and place were all wrong; also, I do have a basic knowledge of the American warblers on the British list and this bird did not fit any of them. If it was an American wood-warbler, it had to be a species new to Britain and Ireland, and that seemed to take it into the realms of fantasy.

I returned home and, lacking any books on cage birds, the first reference that I checked was the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society 1983). I flicked idly through the warbler plates with no great expectations, but then stopped at page 354, stunned. The bird I had been watching was clearly a male Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*.

Over the next few hours, I considered various other options and went through all my field guides. In the end, though, the only conclusion that I could reach was that I had indeed seen a Golden-winged Warbler.

I spoke to S. J. M. Gantlett, who agreed that, in the circumstances (a single observer with no binoculars), confirmation of my sighting was required. The next morning, with the help of Bill Jones, Terry Laws, Tim Loseby and Alan Woodcock, an unsuccessful search was carried out in rather murky weather, the sole bright spot being a Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* discovered in the large number of ornamental bushes surrounding the car park of the nearby Tesco supermarket. In the early afternoon, the weather improved and I returned to check the bushes around Tesco's again. To my great relief, one of the first birds that I saw was the Golden-winged Warbler, and I was able to confirm all the main plumage points before it flew off across the car park. I obtained the following detailed description:

SIZE AND SHAPE Size about that of Wood Warbler, but with more robust appearance.

UPPERPARTS Lemon-yellow patch on forehead, extending back onto crown. Black mask running back from lores and around eye. Borders of these patches whitish-grey, paler than rest of upperparts, which were greyish.

TAIL Average length. Uppertail and the undertail-coverts grey. Undertail feathers paler, contrasting with the darker undertail-coverts.

WINGS Most obvious feature was another lemon-yellow patch, on greater coverts. Primaries, tertials, median and lesser coverts greyish, but tertials were suffused with greenish wash.

UNDERPARTS Uniform grey, paler than upperparts. Only noticeable feature was broad, black bib.

BARE PARTS Eye, legs and bill blackish. Bill longer than that of any similarly proportioned Palearctic warbler.

268-270. Male Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Kent, February 1989 (top and bottom) and April 1989 (centre) (*Paul Doherty*)

The inclusion in colour of plates 268-270 has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.

Later in the afternoon, the bird was relocated nearby and was last seen heading towards a patch of rough ground leading down to the River Medway. It had been heading in the same direction when I had last seen it on the previous day. As the riverside vegetation often held wintering Chiffchaffs *P. collybita*, I guessed that the Golden-winged Warbler was spending most of its time in the same area, only occasionally straying to the fringes of the housing estate. Blithely assuming, therefore, that the Golden-winged Warbler was resident in an area of open ground with public access, I felt that it was safe to release the news, and a message was put on 'Birdline'.

Over the next two days, contrary to my expectations, the Golden-winged Warbler was seen in the bushes surrounding Tesco's car park and the gardens of the housing estate. With such an extreme and beautiful rarity, in the densely populated southeast of England, with convenient motorway access, and at a quiet time of year with little else competing for birdwatchers' attention, it seemed certain that the weekend would bring large numbers of birdwatchers. Even so, I was surprised by the horde which descended on the estate. The actual number will of course never be known, but, from a rough count carried out on the Sunday, I believe there were about 1,200 people present then, with a minimum of 3,000 people on the Saturday (*Brit. Birds* 82: plate 187; 85: plate 271).

Although the Golden-winged Warbler was a tame and distinctive bird (and was photographed: *Brit. Birds* 82: plates 186 & 188; 83: plate 271; 85: plates 268-270), keeping track of it was often difficult, particularly after the initial crowds had melted away. It would occasionally settle in a garden, but more typically it moved quickly from garden to garden and so was easily lost. Relocating it could then be difficult, as it travelled widely.

With large numbers of birdwatchers roaming around a housing estate, there

271. Twitchers watching Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Lunsford Park Estate, Larkfield, Kent, February 1989 (*Paul Doherty*)



was obvious potential for friction with local people. Indeed, had I known that the Golden-winged Warbler would spend all of its time on the estate, I would probably have felt that it was unwise to release the news. In the event, that would have been a mistake, as most local people seemed to enjoy hosting an avian celebrity. Some minor problems did occur, but most birdwatchers behaved very responsibly, and I am not aware of any serious incidents. (Local radio reported that a wall had been pushed over in the melee, but my attempts to track down this alleged damage met with a blank, and I suspect that the incident never happened.) There is, however, no room for complacency. This 'event' was widely reported on television and in the press (and even made the front page of the *Daily Telegraph*). Public opinion tends to generalise, and if one unpleasant incident had been filmed, there could have been unfortunate consequences for the public perception of birdwatchers. Clearly, at events such as this, birdwatchers' behaviour must be impeccable.

After the initial excitement had died down, the Golden-winged Warbler remained, but, with much smaller numbers of birdwatchers looking, it sometimes went unreported for days at a time. Luckily, it benefited from unusually mild weather, which enabled it to survive.

As spring approached, there were reports of it singing. So far as I am aware, the last sighting was on 10th April, when I saw it in the bushes surrounding Tesco's car park (where else!). It seems a reasonable assumption that it then began a northward migration. A rumour reached me the following winter that it had returned, but nothing came of this, so it was doubtless incorrect.

The date when the Golden-winged Warbler arrived in Britain will never be known. The most likely explanation for its occurrence, however, is that it made landfall in the Southwest in the autumn, made its way east to Kent, and found the mild climate of the Medway valley to its liking. It may not be too far-fetched to suggest that it went from Tresco to Tesco. (Sorry!)

By what seemed an amazing coincidence, another American warbler, a Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*, was present just 25 km away on very similar dates: 6th January to 23rd April 1989. Unfortunately, it was on private land with no access for general birdwatching. The third American passerine of this period was a Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* at Roch, Dyfed, from 2nd January to 23rd April. The dates of all three birds were remarkably similar, perhaps suggesting something more than simple coincidence.

In the case of the Northern Oriole, a collection for the Dyfed Wildlife Trust raised a substantial sum of money. My one regret of the Golden-winged Warbler episode is that no similar collection was made for one of the Kentish conservation bodies. I do not think donations would have been begrudged by the thousands who obviously obtained such enjoyment from this wonderful bird.

Paul Doherty, 28 Carousel Walk, Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire LS25 6LP

Peter Lansdown (Chairman, British Birds Rarities Committee) and Dr Alan Knox (Chairman, British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee) have commented as follows: 'With Golden-winged Warbler having no confusion species, and with the Larkfield individual being a particularly stunning male, the BBRC, and subsequently the BOURC, had no hesitation in accepting the identification on a single circulation of the record to each committee.

'The BOURC's task of assessing the likely origin of the bird was not so straightforward. Neither the date nor the locality fitted the familiar pattern of vagrancy for Nearctic passerines in Britain. Also, Golden-winged Warbler is a scarce breeding species in the USA and is rare as a migrant on the eastern seaboard. It is, however, a long-distance migrant. The first record for Newfoundland, on 15th September 1988, and the first wintering records for the USA, both from Texas in winter 1989/90, are recent departures from the species' normal pattern of occurrence. It is exceptionally rare for an American passerine to winter in Britain, yet from January to April 1989, in addition to the Golden-winged Warbler, there was the Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* in Kent (*Brit. Birds* 83: 489) and the Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* in Dyfed (*Brit. Birds* 83: 492), already noted in Paul Doherty's paper. Furthermore, autumn 1988 was unusual in that the English east coast received more than its normal share of Nearctic passerines, with a Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota* in Cleveland, Red-eyed Vireos *Vireo olivaceus* in Northumberland and Suffolk, and a Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* in Lincolnshire (*Brit. Birds* 82: 505-563). Finally, North American warblers are extremely rare in captivity in Britain and Europe. The BOURC considered all of the above points before coming to the unanimous conclusion that the Golden-winged Warbler was most likely of natural origin, and the species was admitted to Category A of the British and Irish list (*Brit. Birds* 83: 489; *Ibis* 133: 220).' EDS

Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs

Those of us involved in the judging regard it as a pleasure and a rare privilege to view the submissions of photographers for the twin features of 'Bird Photograph of the Year' and 'Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs'. Normally, we look at them in this order, and not infrequently we see both coloured and black-and-white versions of the same subject, if not the same picture. It is difficult to make judgments on their relative merits, but it is probably easier to be objectively critical about black-and-white as appreciation of the coloured image can be much more subjective. Certainly, those of us who have worked in black-and-white, either in the present or in the past, gain a great deal of satisfaction from achieving the perfect balance of density and contrast in a negative which perfectly complements a medium-grade printing paper, thereby ensuring the maximum possible tonal range. This is hard to match in colour printing as we seek only to reproduce the 'correct' image of colour balance and contrast. At least, this is normally the case when printing photographs of birds, where we want a natural result. The frustrating part is that machines are exceedingly capable of analysing coloured transparencies or negatives and producing an excellent result which can be bettered by only a very few hand printers. Then, too, we have to accept that, with colour transparencies, our photographic involvement is over at the moment we press the

272. Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, West Glamorgan, December 1990 (*Harold E. Grenfell*)(Nikon FA; 400mm Sigma APO; XP1)

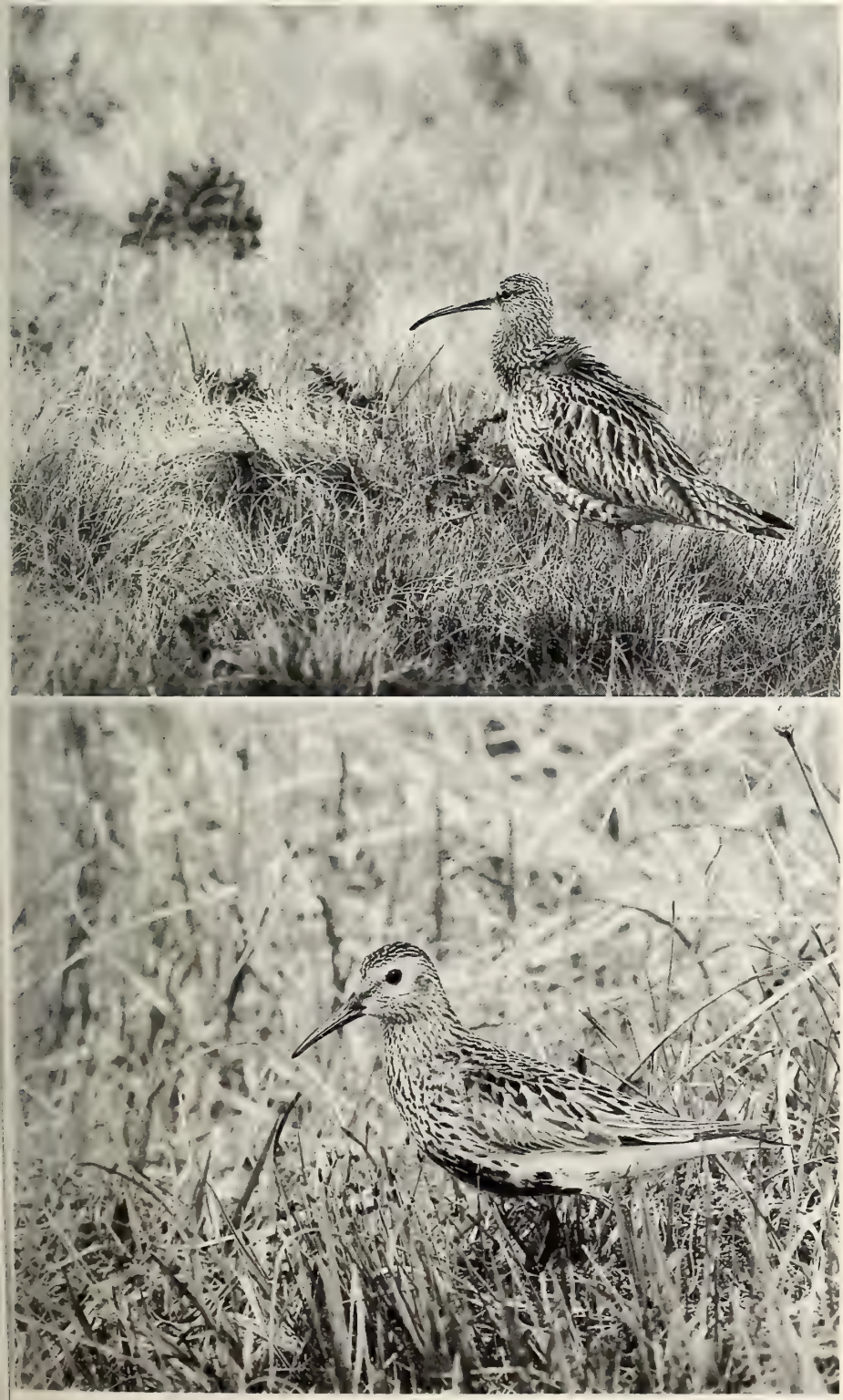
273. Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* displaying, Northamptonshire, April 1991 (*R. J. Chandler*)(Nikon FE2; 600mm Nikkor; XP1)











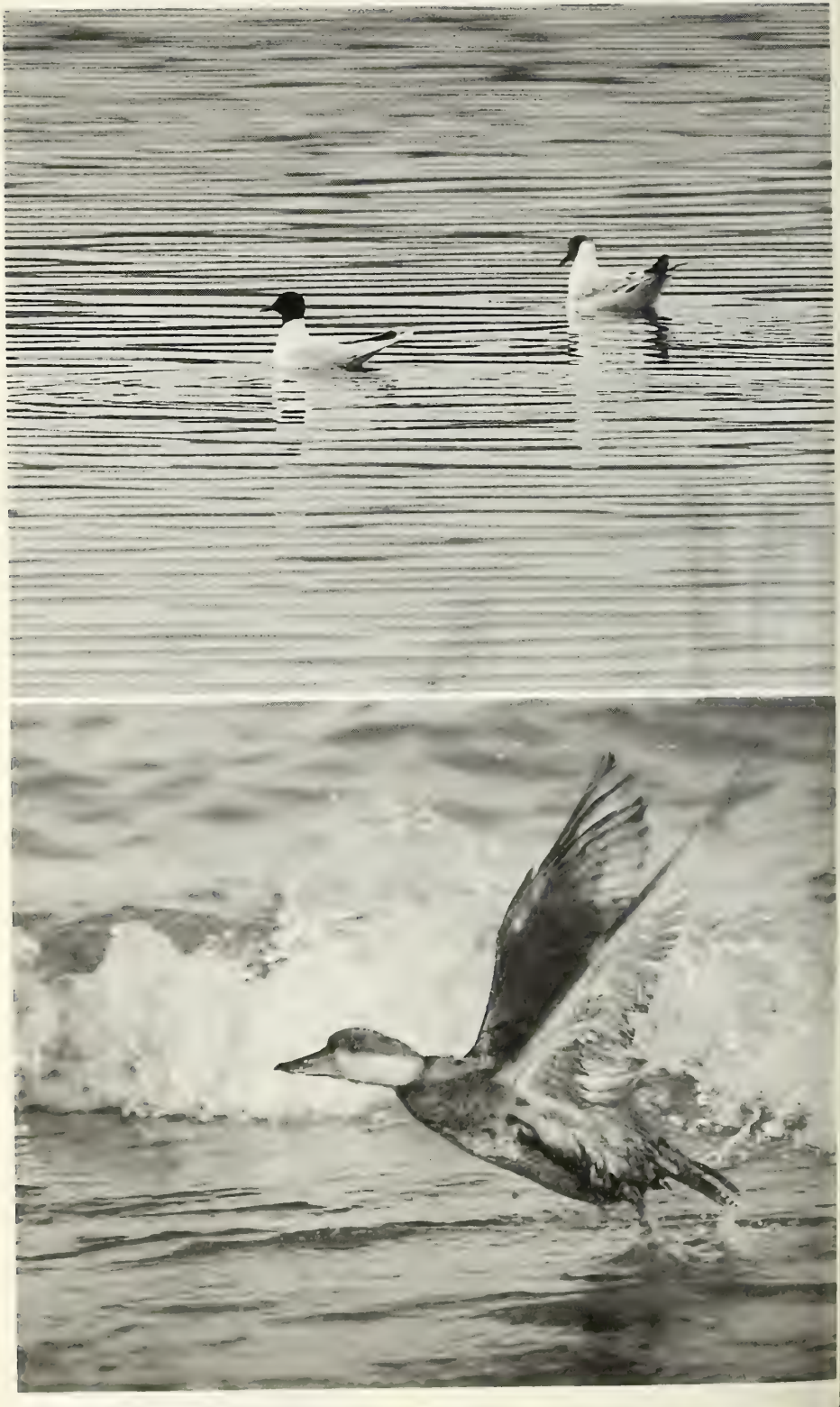












shutter release. Perhaps this explains the lure to some of black-and-white photography. There is tremendous satisfaction in creating a print with a full range of tones, and one can never forget the magic moment as an image swims to life in the dim, red light of the darkroom.

It is interesting to note which film stocks photographers prefer. Last year, out of a total of 14 prints selected, four were taken on conventional *Ilford* FP4, while all the rest were captured on the relatively new chromogenic film, either *Ilford* XP1 or XP2 (one only). This year, we still have four taken on FP4 and two others on the conventional film, *Fuji* Meopan 400. Chromogenics are still in the majority, with nine on XP1 and one on XP2.

This year, we had submitted for our delectation a total of 67 prints by seven photographers, from which we have chosen to publish 16 by six photographers. As might be expected, we find names which are well known to us, and Harold Grenfell, Dr Kevin Carlson, Dr Richard Chandler and Tony Hamblin each have three prints selected, while David Taylor and Mike Weston have two. You will notice that these have been put down in alphabetical order of Christian-name appellation, not by rank, seniority or merit.

Now to the pictures themselves. Sometimes, the photographers provide fairly full details of the situation, but frequently the judging panel has to speculate on the most likely course of events.

The first photograph by Richard Chandler (plate 273) is of two Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* displaying to a third which is flying overhead carrying a small fish. With its uncluttered background and the simplicity of the perches, this makes a most interesting and attractive picture. There are two other

274. Adult male Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*, Florida, USA, September 1988 (*R. J. Chandler*)(Nikon FE2; 600mm Nikon + 1.4x converter; XP1)

275. Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, Gwynedd, August 1991 (*R. J. Chandler*)(Nikon FE2; 600mm Nikkor; XP1)

276. Curlew *Numenius arquata* regurgitating pellet, Powys, May 1990 (*Tony Hamblin*)(Canon T90; Canon 500L; XP1)

277. Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Powys, May 1990 (*Tony Hamblin*)(Canon T90; Canon 500L; XP1)

278. Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Portugal, May 1991 (*Kevin Carlson*)(Nikon 501; 300mm Nikkor; FP4)

279. Male Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, Portugal, May 1991 (*Kevin Carlson*)(Nikon FE; 135mm Nikkor; FP4)

280. King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, Netherlands, February 1991 (*Mike Weston*)(Canon A1; Canon FD600mm; XP1)

281. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Netherlands, May 1991 (*Mike Weston*)(Canon EOS600; Sigma AF 75-300mm; XP1)

282. Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* singing on bramble, West Glamorgan, June 1991 (*Harold E. Grenfell*)(Nikon F3; 600mm Sigma Mirror; XP2)

283. Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Portugal, May 1991 (*Kevin Carlson*)(Pentacon Six; 180mm Sonnar; FP4)

284. Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, Germany, July 1991 (*David Taylor*)(Nikon F3; 500mm mirror lens with 2x converter; Fuji Neopan 400)

285. Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, Warwickshire, May 1986 (*Tony Hamblin*)(OM2N; 300mm Olympus; FP4)

286. Little Gull *Larus minutus* and Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*, Germany, July 1991 (*David Taylor*)(Nikon F3; 600mm lens + 1.4x converter; Fuji Neopan 400)

287. Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, West Glamorgan, December 1990 (*Harold E. Grenfell*)(Nikon FA; 400mm Sigma APO; XP1)

pictures by Richard and it is no surprise that they are of waders: an adult male Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* in Florida (plate 274) and a juvenile Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* in Anglesey (plate 275). All these were taken using a 600-mm lens, but for the Killdeer shot a 1.4-times converter was used as well.

The splendid and evocative sight of a Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* wheeling over spindrift off the storm-tossed West Glamorgan coast (plate 272) is by Harold Grenfell. Not only has he captured the spirit of the moment, but he has also managed to keep the horizon level, which can be very difficult to do when one's attention is riveted upon the subject. Also at Port Eynon on the Gower Peninsula, within a few days of the Glaucous Gull, Harold has come up trumps again, with a superb shot of a Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* taking flight (plate 287). In his notes, he mentions that he was using a 400-mm Sigma APO on a monopod. This is the kind of picture one often tries for but misses, since the quarry usually takes flight at exactly the wrong moment. As in the Glaucous Gull picture, the movement of the water adds great pictorial interest. In a totally different vein is his third picture to be shown here: a Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (plate 282). Perched on a bramble stem, this singing male shows well the distinctive bill shape peculiar to the buntings. Beautifully composed, this fine picture reveals that it was taken through a 500-mm mirror lens by the twinned out-of-focus effect of the rearmost branch at top left.

Let us now look at Kevin Carlson's selection. Kevin has forgotten more about hide photography at or near the nest than most of us will ever learn. He has developed a distinctive style of black-and-white work that is easily recognised by those of us familiar with the métier. This year, Kevin has had three of his photographs selected (plates 278, 279 & 283). The Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* was photographed in Portugal, a country which Kevin and his wife Christine have made very much their stamping ground and where they have greatly assisted the Portuguese to develop a coherent wildlife policy. We presume that this picture was taken at the same colony where last year's picture was obtained. The hide, which was placed 12 m from the nest, was erected over the course of the week, and a 300-mm lens was eventually used. The Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* was photographed at its nest in a Portuguese reedbed. Carefully 'gardened' (as we call judicious pruning and temporary tying back of surplus vegetation), this shows the male stepping forward before brooding the clutch of eggs. This hide also took a week to introduce, but was situated 3 m from the subject, necessitating the use of a 135-mm lens. The final picture in this group is of a pair of Melodious Warblers *Hippolais polyglotta* at the nest, where the male is passing food to the female. Yet again in Portugal, the hide was only 1.2 m away from the nest, while a 180-mm lens on 6cm x 6cm film format was used.

Tony Hamblin can always be relied upon to furnish a good set of prints, and this year is no exception. Plate 276 shows a Curlew *Numenius arquata* which we guess to be near the nest, judging by the habitat. We are told that the strange lump in its throat is a pellet being regurgitated. Taken with the same focal length of lens, 500-mm, is the superb portrait of a Dunlin *Calidris alpina* in breeding plumage (plate 277). Like that of the Curlew, this photograph was obtained in Powys, Wales, where we assume that it was near its

nest. A very different approach is shown in Tony's fine picture of a Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (plate 285) perching on a branch to which, doubtless, the bird was lured by a taped Cuckoo call. It was photographed in Warwickshire using a 300-mm lens.

An interesting contrast to the first Cuckoo picture is that taken by David Taylor of a rufous female Cuckoo in Germany (plate 284). Whether calling or panting in the heat we cannot tell, but it was photographed using a 500-mm mirror lens and a 2-times converter from the car window at a distance of about 50 m. Plate 286, of Little Gull *Larus minutus* and Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*, shows well the differences between the two species. This time, David utilised a 600-mm lens with a 1.4-times converter.

The final group of two is by Mike Weston, who took both pictures in the Netherlands. The first one (plate 280) is of a splendid adult male King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* at the Hook of Holland, rising out of the water to flap its wings. A 600-mm lens was used for this. The second shot is a fine action picture of a Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (plate 281) which, having just captured a small fish, has had its image captured by a 75-300-mm zoom lens as it spread its wings to take flight.

All in all, a very fine selection and our thanks to all those who submitted prints. May we, as usual, request all photographers to take heed of the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) when intending to photograph at or near a nest. May we also caution those who might use tape lures to do so with circumspection, as they can cause serious disturbance to breeding birds. DON SMITH, J.T.R. SHARROCK and ROGER TIDMAN



ICBP news

Bald Ibis workshop This summer, over 50 experts, including representatives from ICBP, attended a workshop to discuss measures to save the Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*.

Once distributed through central Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, the Bald Ibis is reduced to 430 wild birds, all of which occur in Morocco. The penultimate population, in Turkey, became extinct in 1989. (Captive-bred birds have been released in Turkey, but they are not regarded as a viable population.)

Agricultural intensification is believed to be largely responsible for the decline, with a number of drought years in northern Africa at the end of the 1970s also contributing. Birders should be aware that human disturbance is also a problem, and Moroccan children have learnt to throw stones at the birds to flush them for visiting birdwatchers, in return for a tip.

The recent designation of the Oued Massa National Park in Morocco provides some hope. Approximately 250 of the remaining 430 wild individuals occur in the Park, and the Government of Morocco deserves congratulations for the designation. It is essential, however, that effective protection for the Bald Ibis is introduced in Morocco immediately, if the species is to have a chance of survival.

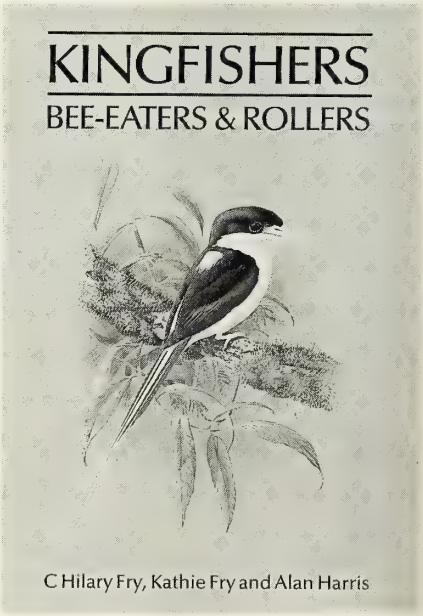
GEORGINA GREEN

International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ

The 'British Birds' Best Bird Book of the Year

For the benefit of those who may wish to acquire (or give as a present) just one of the many bird books published each year, *British Birds* selects annually its choice of the 'Best Bird Book of the Year' from those reviewed in the journal during the previous 12 months. The winner may, in one year, be an important, erudite scientific treatise and, in another, a lighter, less academic work, but it will always be reliable, well produced and thoroughly worthy of inclusion in any birdwatcher's library.

Our choice for BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1992 is **Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers: a handbook. By C. Hilary Fry, Kathie Fry & Alan Harris.** Christopher Helm (Publishers), London. £27.99. (Review: *Brit. Birds* 85: 572)



Two other books were close contenders and are also strongly recommended by us:

The Magpies: the ecology and behaviour of Black-billed and Yellow-billed Magpies. By Tim Birkhead; illustrated by David Quinn. T. & A. D. Poyser, London. £18.00. (Review: *Brit. Birds* 84: 577-578)

The Herons of Europe. By Claire Voisin; illustrated by G. Brusewitz, P. L. Suiro and F. Desbordes. T. & A. D. Poyser, London. £22.50. (Review: *Brit. Birds* 85: 79)



British BirdShop



Listed books are POST FREE to 'British Birds' subscribers

The books included in British BirdShop are recommended by *British Birds* as reliable, good value and valuable additions to any birdwatcher's library. It is the aim of *British Birds* and Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best, most reliable and friendliest service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o Subbuteo Books, Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd CH7 4LN.

Books

All listed books are POST FREE.

SPECIAL OFFERS — *Please tick ✓*

British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (usuallly £10.50) Paperback £9.50 ☐
Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (British Birds) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95) £6.95 ☐

NEW COUNTY ATLASES AND AVIFAUNAS

(Orders for any three titles under this heading qualify for a 5% discount)

Brucker, Gosler & Heryet *Birds of Oxfordshire* (Pisces) £27.95 ☐
Cook *Birds of Moray and Nairn* (Aberdeen UP) DUE LATE 1992 (Orders accepted) Paperback £7.95 ☐
Deans *et al. An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire* (SOS) Paperback £9.95 ☐
Dymond *Birds of Fair Isle* Paperback £11.95 ☐
Guest, Elphick, Hunter & Norman *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Cheshire and Wirral* (CAWOS) £16.95 ☐
Mitcham *Rutland Breeding Bird Atlas* (Spiegl Press) Paperback £6.50 ☐

NEW BOOKS THIS MONTH

Axell *Of Birds and Men* (Book Guild) £14.95 ☐
Bibby *Putting Biodiversity on the Map: priority areas for global conservation* (ICBP) Paperback £12.95 ☐
Bibby, Burgess & Hill *Bird Cencus Techniques* (BTO/RSPB) £19.50 ☐
Davies *Dunnock Behaviour and Social Evolution* (OUP) Paperback £13.50 ☐ Hardback £35.00 ☐
Kaufman *Peterson Fieldguides: Advanced Birding* (Houghton Mifflin) Paperback £10.95 ☐ Hardback £15.95 ☐
Knox *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* Sixth edition (BOU) Paperback £4.95 ☐
Koepcke *The Birds of the Department of Lima, Peru* (Harrowood) Paperback £14.95 ☐
Mearns & Mearns *Audubon to Xantus: the lives of those commemorated in North American bird names* (Academic) £29.50 ☐
Roberts *The Birds of Pakistan* vol. 2 (OUP) £40.00 ☐

COMING SOON – ORDER NOW

Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 6 (OUP) DUE DECEMBER £75.00 ☐
Ferns *Bird Life of Coasts and Estuaries* (CUP) DUE DECEMBER approx £22.50 ☐

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Ali & Ripley *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* 2nd edn (OUP) £75.00 ☐
Alström, Colston & Lewington *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins) £14.99 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP) £24.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1985 £49.50 ☐
Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* (Ibis) £20.00 ☐
del Hoyo, Elliot & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* vol. 1 (Lynx) £95.00 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £19.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton) Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers: a handbook* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1992 £27.99 ☐
Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic) ... vol. 1 £81.00 ☐ vol. 2 £81.00 ☐ vol. 3 £81.00 ☐ vol. 4 £85.00 ☐
Grimmett & Jones *Important Bird Areas of Europe* (ICBP) Paperback £21.00 ☐
Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic) £65.00 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan) £14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983 £24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986 £24.99 ☐
Hollom *et al. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser) £16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic) £22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World) £18.95 ☐
Inskipp & Inskipp *Guide to the Birds of Nepal* 2nd edn (Helm) £35.00 ☐
Jonsson *Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* (Helm) £25.00 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £22.50 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form overleaf to complete your order.



British BirdShop (continued)



Listed books are POST FREE to 'British Birds' subscribers

RECOMMENDED BOOKS (cont.) *Please tick ✓*

Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhaet) £32.50 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐
Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (OUP) £125.00 ☐
Mundy, Butchart, Ledger & Piper *The Vultures of Africa* (Friedman/Academic) £48.00 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
Newman *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa – 1991 Update* (HarperCollins) Paperback £14.99 ☐
(Southern) Hardback £17.95 ☐
NCC/RSPB *Red Data Birds in Britain* (Poyser) £18.00 ☐
Porter *et al. Flight Identification of European Raptors* (Poyser) £16.50 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* vol. 1 (OUP) £40.00 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐

OTHER TITLES

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from Subbuteo. Please refer to the Subbuteo catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates.

Free copies of the Subbuteo catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders

Please tick ✓

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) cordex retaining £6.95 ☐
..... wirex retaining £6.95 ☐

Recordings

Please add £1.50 p&p per order *Please tick ✓*

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £14.95 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £6.35 ☐
Kettle & Ranft *British Bird Sounds on CD* (2 CDs) £29.00 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) (4 CDs) £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING NOVEMBER1992

for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to Subbuteo NHB Ltd. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. Giro ac no. 37 588 6303.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £..... Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned to Subbuteo and your money will be refunded without question.

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Mold (0352) 770581. FAX. (0352) 771590

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o Subbuteo Books, Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd CH7 4LN**

PhotoSpot

33. White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

With a vast breeding range—extending from Turkey, Israel and Egypt in the west to China and Taiwan in the east, and south to Sri Lanka, Java and the Philippines—it is hardly surprising that this species has acquired a variety of

288. White-breasted (Smyrna) Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*, India, January 1990 (*David Tipling*)





289. White-breasted (Smyrna) Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*, Israel, April 1987 (*Huub Huneker*)

English names. *BWP* chose White-breasted Kingfisher, and this has been followed by *British Birds* and used by Fry, Fry & Harris (1992, *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters & Rollers*), but White-throated Kingfisher is also widely used (e.g. Lekagul & Round, 1991, *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand*). An older name, Smyrna Kingfisher, has more international supporters than either of the plumage-related names, and this is the name recently advocated by both the British Ornithologists' Union and *British Birds* (see pages 274 & 285). Its use would make the scientific name easier to remember, though Smyrna is now known as Izmir, and that part of southern Turkey represents a tiny pocket right on the western edge of the species' range.

This is a large, spectacular kingfisher, which can transform itself from a rather well-camouflaged brownish blob perched within the canopy of a small tree into a highly conspicuous brilliant turquoise woodpecker-like bird when it flies (compare plates 288 & 289). The call is also unexpected, and quite unlike the shrill cries of our common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: a loud raucous cackle often uttered from a hidden perch or when taking flight.

The Smyrna Kingfisher does occur near water (both sea and fresh) and

Publication of plates 288 & 289 in colour has been supported by a donation from Christopher Helm Publishers Ltd.

does catch fish, but it is equally at home in wholly dry habitats, such as woodland glades and palm groves. It feeds by pouncing on prey, rather like a roller *Coracias* or a shrike *Lanius*.

This species is most unlikely to occur as a vagrant in western Europe, though it has occurred in Greece and Cyprus, and small numbers have recently colonised Egypt. JTRS

Review

Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland. 6th edn. Compiled by A. G. Knox for the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union. BOU, Tring, 1992. 50 pages; 15 line-drawings. Paperback £4.95.

The sixth edition of the BOU's *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* has been prepared as 'a handy, slim statement of the status'—as at 31st December 1991—'of those species and subspecies that are known to have occurred in Britain and Ireland and their respective sea areas (up to a maximum of 200 nautical miles, 370 km . . .). It is intended to be used as a working document and to be updated with a further edition in a few years . . . The species-level taxonomy and nomenclature of this list follows K. H. Voous's *List of recent holarctic bird species* (1977, revised edition, BOU), as subsequently modified in the reports of the Records Committee published in the journal *Ibis* . . .'

Unlike the 1971 *Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland*, which was extensively annotated and ran to 333 pages, the current edition of the *Checklist* is indeed a list: details of 544 species (plus 14 species in category 'D') are compressed into only 22 double-column pages. A further 18 pages are occupied by a 14-column 'ticklist'. There is a three-page introduction, seven pages of indices, and 15 drawings representing species from five orders.

Species entries list category (A, B, or C, with an appendix for category D); races known to have occurred in Britain or Ireland; and one or more of eight abbreviated status-codes (e.g. MB = Migrant Breeder, WV = Winter Visitor, PV = Passage Visitor). The year is shown for species which first occurred during the present century. For species in category B, the year of the most recent record is listed. Where it is less than 100, the number of birds that has ever occurred is noted.

Thus, other than updating the bare statistics, this edition adds little to our understanding of the *status* of birds in Britain and Ireland. This small volume will, however, be remembered for a quite different reason: as well as the traditional English names, it includes—and proposes acceptance of—new English names for 153 species. This exercise forms part of an initiative, under the auspices of the International Ornithological Congress, for a single list of standardised English names for the world's birds (see *Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; 85: 263-290).

There has already been widespread comment upon these proposed changes. The BOURC has in the past been rightly criticised for inertia: it is thus disappointing to find that its new vigour, and determination to fulfil its proper role as a leader of discussion and opinion, has met with largely negative reactions, many of which reveal a disappointing insularism, surprisingly little changed by the massive increase in world travel by today's birdwatchers.

This is not the place to prolong the debate substantially, but it may be noted that, of the proposed changes to the names of birds on the British and Irish list, around 80 involve no more than the addition of an epithet such as 'Common', 'Eurasian', 'Northern', or 'Great'. Only 14 or so involve a genuinely fundamental name-change. Looking back to the 1941 edition of Witherby's '*Handbook*' reveals at least 17 species names no longer in use (e.g. Eversmann's Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*, Buff-backed Heron *Bubulcus ibis*, and American Stint *Calidris minutilla*). English names have never been immutable but it is sensible to try and establish a formalism for naming criteria, *precisely so that, in the future, name changes can be minimised.*

Obviously, there will be initial disagreement over details, and it is right that there should be vigorous debate before any changes are finalised. That is, no doubt, the real consideration behind the publication of this 'working document'. Whatever the eventual outcome, this publication will occupy a place in the history of British ornithology which belies its slim proportions. A. R. DEAN

Notes



Kingfisher apparently feeding on blackberries At 05.10 GMT on 16th August 1988, while I was erecting mist-nets at a scrubland site in Southampton Docks, an adult male Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* flew from brambles *Rubus fruticosus* into one of the nets. The net had been placed 260 m from a tidal creek, in a narrow ride bordered by brambles bearing ripe blackberries and elders *Sambucus nigra* bearing unripe berries. Upon close examination, the Kingfisher was found to have, on the feathers around and below its lower mandible, fluid remains and purple staining from ripened blackberries. Kingfishers are occasionally seen in this area, but never among dense scrub within the ringing site. High water on this date was at 13.02 GMT, and the weather at the time was fine and dry.

G. ALEXANDER
6 Arliss Road, Maybush, Southampton SO1 6DG

David Boag has commented: 'I have heard of nothing remotely similar to this, and can only speculate on the possible causes.' Details of any similar observations will be most welcome. EDS

Swallows feeding live honeybees to their young During July 1988, in Shropshire, while photographing Swallows *Hirundo rustica* in flight to their nest in an outhouse, I observed that a large proportion of the food they brought for the young was honeybees *Apis mellifera*. Several of the bees were carried by the abdomen, and were buzzing fiercely as they were thrust into the mouths of the young. On three occasions during a period of six hours' observation, bees escaped from the parent's bill while being fed to the young; these bees immediately flew rapidly away, indicating that they were probably uninjured. On a further occasion, a lively but injured bee fell to the floor below the nest; the male Swallow flew down to retrieve it and scampered in pursuit in a surprisingly agile fashion, eventually catching the bee and successfully feeding it to a nestling. There was no indication that either the parents or the young Swallows were suffering discomfort from bee stings. The source of the honeybees was subsequently identified: several Swallows were 'hawking' among bees on a flight line between a number of hives and the bees' principal nectar-gathering site some distance away.

N. A. J. WILDE
19 Lytton Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 4HL

A previous note (*Brit. Birds* 68: 248) recorded Swallows feeding live wasps, believed to be common wasps *Vespula vulgaris*, to their young in a nest in Northamptonshire. In her studies of Swallows in Scotland, Dr Angela Turner found that most bees caught were stingless drones, not workers (*Brit. Birds* 84: 558). EDS

Swallows roosting on ship at night Correspondence regarding birds landing on ships at sea (*Brit. Birds* 80: 284-286; 81: 399-401) reminded me of an experience I had in the Mediterranean, off Alexandria, Egypt, in September 1935. As night fell, dozens of Swallows *Hirundo rustica* flew into the small bar on board the liner *Amerapoora* and perched, shoulder to shoulder, on the

picture rail, where they remained all night. The following day, two large raptors (possibly Black Kites *Milvus migrans*) were perched, one on the foremast and the other on the aftmast, from where they preyed on the Swallows as the latter left the ship, knocking several into the sea before retrieving them and carrying them back to the top of the mast, where they were eaten. No other 'weapon' being available, other passengers and I shot at the raptors with a catapult using olives as ammunition, but they were out of range.

GEOFFREY BOYLE
Strawberry Lee, White Street, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 4LW

Blackbirds consuming flowers During the week commencing 22nd May 1988, in my garden at Saddington, Leicestershire, I watched, daily, a male Blackbird *Turdus merula* taking flowers from a cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*. The bird consumed as many as ten flowers while I watched from my lounge window about 2 m away. I have previously noted almost annual events such as this, involving both philadelphus *Philadelphus* and cotoneaster bushes.

C. W. HOLT
The Stone House, Saddington, Leicester

Both the flowers mentioned are frequently visited by bees, so presumably are rich in nectar. EDS

Display by female Blackbird At 21.35 GMT on 4th July 1987, through an upstairs window in my house at Dornoch, Sutherland, I noticed a male Blackbird *Turdus merula* fly up and alight on the flat, topmost spray of a nearby yew *Taxus baccata*. A few seconds later, a female landed on the same spray and perched directly in front of the male, their bills being no more than 2-3 cm apart; so far as I could see in the fading light, both appeared to have their bills closed while facing one another. Suddenly, the female raised her wings above her back at an angle of 45° and vibrated them rapidly for about two seconds; this display was repeated in exactly the same manner a further three times. The male then flew off and, seconds later, the female departed in a different direction. Throughout the incident, there was no suggestion of any agonistic behaviour. The entire performance, which lasted less than a minute, was one of graceful elegance. I have been unable to trace any published description of similar behaviour.

D. MACDONALD
Elmbank, Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3SN

Dr K. E. L. Simmons has commented as follows: 'Mr Macdonald's one-off observation concerned unknown birds which were probably, but not certainly, a well-established pair. The female could just have been doing a two-wing stretch comfort-movement combined with wing-drying shaking actions; or her behaviour might be a high-intensity version of the wing-vibrating display (with wings lowered) which I have observed, sometimes together with gaping, from my tame pairs of garden Blackbirds over the years as a form of heterosexual "greeting" display (by male to female, by female to male, or by both simultaneously). Neither Dr D. W. Snow (1958, *A Study of Blackbirds*) nor *BWP* (vol. 5) mentions this behaviour.' EDS

Aggressive Blackbird grounding Little Owl On 19th March 1989, near Maidstone, Kent, I heard a succession of alarm calls from a male

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. It was flying after a Little Owl *Athene noctua*, which was swooping low, some 30-50 cm above short grass, and appeared to make contact with the owl, which lost its balance and fell momentarily to the ground. The owl then flew into the branches of a fallen tree, where the Blackbird continued to 'scream' at it.

DON TAYLOR
1 Rose Cottages, Old Loose Hill, Loose, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0BN

Song Thrush feeding on periwinkles On 19th January 1985, during a long period of severe weather, we were walking along the base of the cliffs at Pegwell Bay, Kent, collecting corpses of birds which had succumbed to the frost and making observations on those feeding along the frozen beach. We found six dead Song Thrushes *Turdus philomelos* huddled among the rough grass on the cliff base just above the high-water mark, and watched several feeble individuals foraging in the frozen seaweed. At 16.00 GMT, we noted a single thrush below the tideline, foraging around a rock pool, where it captured, smashed and ate several marine molluscs which proved on examination to be common periwinkles *Littorina littorea*. The thrush used the same technique as when breaking snails, but, owing to the much thicker shell of the winkle, a great deal more effort and increased number of blows were needed. We watched the Song Thrush for five minutes, and searched the adjacent shore for signs of other birds feeding in the same way, but this was the only individual we saw taking advantage of this food supply. Identical behaviour was also recorded during extremely cold, snowy weather in early 1963 (*Brit. Birds* 57: 253-254), but there appear to be very few other references to it.

N. V. MCCANCH and M. MCCANCH
Calf of Man Bird Observatory, c/o Juan Clague, Kionslieu, Plantation Hill, Port St Mary, Isle of Man

As Derek Goodwin has commented, it is odd that Song Thrushes appear to utilise this food source so seldom. EDS

Recently fledged Long-tailed Tits in February On 6th February 1988, at one of my regular ringing sites in Suffolk, I caught a party of seven Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus*. Four were typical fully grown individuals. The other three, however, had very short tails, between 22 mm and 31 mm shorter than those of the four typical tits; they also had very fresh, undamaged primaries and secondaries, quite fluffy dark brown-grey head plumage with a few paler off-white feathers along the crown, black backs, mantles and rumps, white underparts showing very little pink, and deep pink to red eye-rings. The only conclusion that I could come to was that these three were recently fledged juveniles. This would mean that a pair had nested in December 1987, and that the young probably hatched during the last week of December or the first week in January. Long-tailed Tits do breed early in the year, laying usually beginning at the end of March or the first week in April. Lack & Lack (1958, *Bird Study* 5: 1-19) reported two instances of early laying in 1952, on 23rd February and 3rd March. I can find no references in the literature to any earlier breeding attempts. The weather in Suffolk in December 1987 and January 1988 was exceptionally mild, with average temperatures

several degrees above normal. This may have induced some pairs of Long-tailed Tits to attempt early broods, and, in this case, successful breeding apparently occurred.

BRIAN THOMPSON
42 Dover Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8JQ

Dr C. M. Perrins has commented: 'From the description, the birds must have been juveniles. The end of November 1987 was fairly cold and the second week of December unusually so; after that, it became quite mild. The Long-tailed Tits may have registered that winter was over, and then got on with nesting. My suggestion would, of course, have a parallel in the vernalisation of daffodil bulbs.' EDS

Long-tailed Tit apparently weaving its own tail into nest structure On 12th March 1989, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex, I noticed a Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* caught in its nest 1-2 m up in a bramble bush *Rubus fruticosus*. Despite frantic attempts, it was unable to fly off. I approached to within 1 m and saw that its tail was caught where the nest, which was three-quarters completed, was bound to a bramble stem; as I endeavoured to free the tit, it became apparent that the hair and cobwebs were tying the tail to the bramble. It seems that the Long-tailed Tit, while attaching nest material to the bramble by using the coarse hair, had somehow woven the hair around its own tail as well as around the bramble (while the bird is sitting in the nest, its tail is constantly bent upwards, so it could conceivably get in the way). After being freed, the tit flew off, apparently unharmed, to join its mate.

SIMON B. RIX
53 Barnmead, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1UY

Twites eating seaweed Many passerines feed on tideline debris; some feed on the invertebrates found within it, but I can find no reference to their eating seaweed itself. Establishing that any bird is eating seaweed is not easy, for tidelines often contain plant seeds. Bub (1969), in his review of the food of the Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* (*Vogelwarte* 25: 134-141), included only a wide range of terrestrial plants. The following observation may, therefore, be of interest.

On 11th April 1987, on the eastern shore of Oronsay, Inner Hebrides, I watched a group of nine Twites feeding on the sandy shore at low tide close to the water's edge. For some five minutes, they fed on small pieces (up to 1 cm^2) of brown seaweed (Phaeophyta); no tearing or cutting movements were seen, and the pieces, having presumably been reduced in size by wave action (few large pieces of seaweed were present), were picked up and consumed whole. As they fed, they hopped along, legs fully extended, in an upright posture, thus protecting their plumage from any moisture. After the Twites had flown, I inspected the area and found no other plant matter or any invertebrates.

During the week spent on Oronsay, parties of up to 15 Twites were seen around the island and small numbers were thought to be moving north on passage. There was little new plant growth, and natural seed sources would have been at a low level. These two factors may have led this species to utilise this unusual food source.

DAVID C. JARDINE
61 Eastwood Grange Road, Eastwood Grange, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1UE

Letters

Shell identification May I respectfully point out that the bivalve shell attached to the bill of a Dunlin *Calidris alpina* in plate 111 is not a cockle *Cardium*, but looks very like a thick trough shell *Spisula solida*. This species has a much thicker shell than those of other closely related molluscs, and strong muscles, which no doubt is why it was clamped to the Dunlin. A. R. WALKER

41 Eaton Crescent, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA1 4QL

We are grateful to A. R. Walker for pointing out our error, and also to Mrs Beryl Rands and Dennis R. Seaward for their expert help. Mr Seaward commented: 'I agree with your correspondent; the mollusc shown on the Dunlin's bill is certainly not *Cardium*, and is definitely *Spisula* sp., with characteristic concentric lines and grooves on the shell, and from shell outline is probably *S. solida* (L., 1758).' EDS

English names Like many bird enthusiasts, until now I have regarded the argument over standard English names for the world's birds as largely irrelevant. The June issue of *British Birds*, however, is dominated by Inskipp & Sharrock's paper on English names of West Palearctic birds (85: 263-290) and an invitation to vote on the 26 most controversial species; what a waste of time!

Have Inskipp & Sharrock forgotten what the Latin system of scientific nomenclature is meant to be for? SIMON DOWELL

The Game Conservancy Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

I wish to thank *BB* for producing such a well-thought-out and comprehensive review of the English names of West Palearctic birds (*Brit. Birds* 85: 263-290). At long last, it looks as though there may be international agreement on this perennial problem. I. M. LEWIS

20 Heights Road, Upton, Poole, Dorset BH16 5QL

These two letters (abbreviated from the originals) represent the two extremes among two dozen letters received recently on this subject.

The facts are that there is a working group set up by the International Ornithological Congress to compile a single list of unique English names for the world's bird species, this being a task considered necessary by the scientists attending the XX IOC in New Zealand in December 1990; and that the BOU Records Committee and *British Birds* both consider that the opinions of British birdwatchers should be taken fully into account in such an exercise. These opinions were sought in 1988 (*Brit. Birds* 81: 355-377; *Ibis* 130: Supplement), collated, and recommendations then made, taking them into account (*Brit. Birds* 85: 263-290), and further opinion then sought on a few disputed names (*Brit. Birds* 85: 264). Thus, so far as possible, the views of 'ordinary birdwatchers' have been sought and heeded.

One of those who took on the task of collating the views expressed in hundreds of letters on the subject sent to the BOURC, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, has made his own position plain by this comment: 'I cannot get heated about this subject. I shall continue to talk about Pinkfeet, Whitefronts and Bonxies, but shall be equally happy, when writing formally, to refer to Pink-footed Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese and Great Skuas (or whatever names are decided upon internationally). Where is there any problem?' EDS

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Sahel drought and migratory birds As a British Birder, you may be surprised to learn of the ways by which you can make a contribution towards understanding the consequences of the drought in Africa for some of our migratory birds that pass the winter there. You can help by participating in BTO monitoring schemes such as the Common Birds Census, the Waterways Birds Survey, the Nest Records Scheme and the Constant Effort Sites Ringing Scheme. British ringers can also help by participating in the Senegal ringing expeditions (*BTO News* 181: 16).

It was in 1969 that the dramatic decline in the numbers of Whitethroats *Sylvia communis* counted on CBC plots was noted. The numbers of territorial pairs on 140 study plots fell from 1,265 to 372, a decline of 71% in one year, and it is thought that the failure of the summer rains in the Sahel zone of western Africa, just south of the Sahara, was the probable cause of this crash.

Although 1969 saw an improvement in Africa, the next four years brought a severe drought, and rainfall levels have remained below the long-term average ever since. Recent BTO work has shown that changes in the numbers of breeding Sedge Warblers *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* counted on CBC plots since the early 1960s are more strongly linked to conditions in Africa than are those for the Whitethroat. The effect of drought on British Sedge Warblers was confirmed by the discovery of a very strong relationship between the annual survival rates of adult Sedge Warblers and the amount of rainfall in Africa. In years of normal rainfall more than 40% of Sedge Warblers survive their stay in Africa and return to their breeding sites in England, but in dry years survival is much lower.

CBC population indices for Swallow *Hirundo rustica* and Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* are also strongly correlated with the amount of rainfall in western Africa, although British Swallows winter much farther south and pass through the Sahel only on migration. The British populations of other species which only pass through the drought-stricken zone, such as Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, show much weaker relationships with Sahel rainfall.

Exactly how drought conditions increase the mortality rates of migrant birds is not known. The strongest relationships between rainfall and bird numbers have been found for wetland species such as Sedge Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler and Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. The availability of wetlands in western Africa is determined mainly by the annual flooding of the Rivers Niger and Senegal during the summer wet season. In good years, huge flood plains are created, which presumably provide ideal feeding habitat for wetland birds. In dry years, the flood plains will cover a much smaller area, thus limiting the amount of food available for birds. Even if the availability of wetland habitat and food is adequate when the migrants first arrive in the region in autumn, it may become limiting only during winter or early spring, as the wetlands dry out.

The way in which drought affects Whitethroats is probably more complex. During the last 20 years, the numbers counted on CBC plots have fluctuated around a level much lower than that recorded in 1968. Whitethroats are not associated with wetland habitats in Africa, but remain in the semi-arid acacia steppe and savannas of the northern Sahel, where they feed on insects and the berries of trees. The availability of insects and berries in the Sahel zone will depend upon the ability of the trees and shrubs to withstand drought conditions, about which little is known. Again, the critical period for Whitethroats may be at the end of the dry season, when the food supply is dwindling and fat reserves need to be laid down for spring migration to the European breeding grounds.

PAUL GREEN

BTO, National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

Seventy-five years ago...

'ON NEWLY DISCOVERED IRISH COLONIES OF ROSEATE AND SANDWICH TERNS by C. J. CARROLL. In the course of various trips through Ireland I have reached, from time to time, the breeding haunts of several rare species, but my red-letter day occurred this season when, with great good fortune, I discovered a large new Irish colony of Sandwich Terns (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*), together with a small colony of Roseate Terns (*Sterna d. dougallii*).' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 122, November 1917).

'The Carl Zeiss Award'

All colour transparencies, colour prints and black-and-white prints which circulated to the Rarities Committee in support of records during the past year were considered for this annual Award, announced last December (*Brit. Birds* 84: 589). The four short-listed sets of photographs, all of which were published last month, were:



Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*, Shetland, May 1991 (*Eleanor K. McMahon*)(plates 220 & 221)
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, Borders, October 1991 (*A. Kerr*)(plate 232)
Pechora Pipit *A. gustavi*, Shetland, September 1991 (*R. Proctor*)(plates 230 & 231)
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, Leicestershire, May 1991 (*M. Cross*)(plate 240)

The Franklin's Gull was found by Eleanor and Neil McMahon and well described, but flew off with other gulls and, despite searching, was never seen by any other observers. The photographs provided useful confirmatory evidence.

The Olive-backed Pipit was caught in a mistnet by R. Stuart Craig and A. Kerr. The basic ringers' details of a trapped bird (mostly measurements) were helpfully augmented by the photographic evidence.

The Pechora Pipit was also caught in a mistnet (erected to catch a Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*) and a very detailed in-the-hand description was supplied by Chris Donald. The photographs by Bob Proctor were, however, carefully perused and much admired by the members of the Rarities Committee.

The Citrine Wagtail was found by Ian Merrill and Chris Hubbard, who provided excellent documentation of this one-day-stayer, but M. Cross's photograph helped to bring the occurrence to life for the Committee (and rub salt in the wound for those who had tried but failed to see it).

The rules of this competition call for the winning photograph to have been taken in the field in Britain and to have included details which helped to clinch the identification (and also, perhaps, to have added to ornithological knowledge of the species' identification, ageing or sexing criteria).

Strictly speaking, the photographs of the two pipits were not of birds 'in the field', but the judges agreed to bend the rules (which they themselves had originally drafted) to allow the inclusion of such useful pictures in the short list.

After considerable debate, the two judges selected Bob Proctor's Pechora Pipit photographs as the winning entry. These excellent photographs of this little-known species are likely to be used frequently for reference purposes. Bob has chosen as his prize a pair of *Zeiss West* Dialyt 10 × 40 BGATP binoculars, presented by the Award sponsors, *Carl Zeiss—Germany*. The three runners-up, and also all photographers whose rarity photographs have appeared in *British Birds* during the past year (in 'Seasonal reports' or the 'Report on rare birds in Great Britain'), will each be presented with a high-quality, sew-on, woven badge featuring the Carl Zeiss Award logo.

PETER LANSDOWN and J. T. R. SHARROCK

Announcements



British BirdShop—

Subbuteo delivers the goods



We are pleased to announce that, in a new co-operative agreement, Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd of North Wales has taken on the supply and despatch of all mail-order books included each month in our British BirdShop pages.

Subbuteo NHB Ltd is well known as a leading supplier of bird and natural history books. The senior staff in North Wales are experienced birdwatchers and have a wide knowledge of the birding literature.

This new partnership aims to provide *BB* readers with a book service that is second to none in friendliness, expertise, speed and efficiency.

Ordering all your bird books through British BirdShop will help *BB* financially and thereby subsidise *everybody's* subscription by adding extra pages and extra photographs to each issue whilst keeping down the subscription price. Please make full use of this POST FREE service, which is available to all *British Birds* subscribers.

Books in British BirdShop A total of 18 books and one set of CDs have been added to the list this month. There are also special offers on certain new county avifaunas and atlases.

Now is the time to order volume VI of '*BWP*', covering all the warblers.

Note the special pre-Christmas reduction, for two months only, on *Best Days with British Birds* – £8.00 off!

For *all* your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages ix & x.

'BB' ties Available exclusively to *BB* subscribers, these distinctive ties in blue, green, brown or maroon feature our Red Grouse logo in white. Price £6.95 (incl. VAT) post free. Please order from BB Ties, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, quoting quantity of each colour and your BB reference number.

English names: results of referendum The voting slip included in the June 1992 issue (*Brit. Birds* 85: 264 & viii) was returned by 508 subscribers. The results are shown in table 1. These display several features of readers' opinions:

(1) a liking for traditional names (e.g. Black-throated Diver, Stone-curlew, Little Ringed Plover, Arctic Skua, Pied Wagtail, Red-flanked Bluetail, White's Thrush, Bearded Tit, Rock Sparrow);

(2) a resistance to change when there is a very good reason (e.g. Pale-footed Shearwater);

(3) a liking for the inclusion of the group name (e.g. Swainson's Buzzard, Chukar Partridge, Sora Crake, Killdeer Plover, White-throated Needletail Swift); and

(4) a preference for evocative rather than mundane names (e.g. Monk Vulture, Mountain Dotterel, Rufous Nightingale).

Table 1. Results of votes returned by 508 'British Birds' readers

Favoured names in bold; names approved by 50% or more of votes in CAPITALS

Alternative English names	Number of votes	% of all votes cast (incl. abstentions)	% of votes cast for species
Arctic Diver	119	23	25
BLACK-THROATED DIVER	351	69	75
Flesh-footed Shearwater	44	9	16
Pale-footed Shearwater	232	46	84
Hermit Ibis	97	19	34
Northern Bald Ibis	187	37	66
Cinereous Vulture	86	17	35
Monk Vulture	160	31	65
SWAINSON'S BUZZARD	254	50	76
Swainson's Hawk	79	16	24
Chukar	157	31	41
Chukar Partridge	225	44	59
Sora	127	25	34
SORA CRAKE	252	50	66
American Purple Gallinule	247	49	74
Purple Gallinule	87	17	26
Eurasian Thick-knee	128	25	29
STONE-CURLEW	321	63	71
Little Plover Ringed Plover	76	15	17
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER **GREAT RINGED PLOVER**	361	71	83
Killdeer	183	36	47
Killdeer Plover	203	40	53
Eurasian Dotterel	137	27	35
MOUNTAIN DOTTEREL	253	50	65
ARCTIC SKUA	325	64	73
Parasitic Skua	119	23	27
Pallid Scops Owl	59	12	29
Striated Scops Owl	141	28	71
White-throated Needletail	126	25	41
White-throated Needletail Swift	184	36	59
PIED WAGTAIL **AFRICAN WAGTAIL**	344	68	81
White Wagtail African Pied Wagtail	79	16	19
Common Nightingale	177	35	46
Rufous Nightingale	207	41	54
Orange-flanked Bush-robin	111	22	35
Red-flanked Bluetail	210	41	65
Scaly Thrush	78	15	21
WHITE'S THRUSH	293	58	79
Bearded Tit	231	45	51
Reedling	225	44	49
Rock Petronia	81	16	23
ROCK SPARROW	277	55	77
Indian Silverbill	174	34	81
White-throated Silverbill	40	8	19
Chaffinch Teydean Chaffinch	145	29	34
COMMON CHAFFINCH **CANARY ISLANDS CHAFFINCH***	279	55	66

*Many voters expressed a greater preference for the name Blue Chaffinch.

Addendum

Picus viridis and *P. vaillantii* were accidentally omitted from the voting form, but this was spotted by 17 voters, who registered the following opinions:

Green Woodpecker **Levaillant's Woodpecker**	15	3	88
European Green Woodpecker Levaillant's Green Woodpecker	2	0	12

These 'grassroots' results will be taken fully into consideration by the Editorial Board, and will also be drawn to the attention of the BOU Records Committee and the IOC working group on English names.

The 'BB' Award for the Best Annual Bird Report Entries are invited for the second annual award (see account of the first award, *Brit. Birds* 85: 299-308), which is open to all those clubs and societies in Britain and Ireland which publish an annual bird report. The aim of the Award is to provide public acknowledgment of the high quality of publications which may generally be seen only locally, and to encourage and promote high standards in all regional bird reports.

We hope that every local bird club and society in Britain and Ireland will submit a copy of its annual report for consideration by the judges.

The senior editor of the winning report will receive an inscribed book of his choice as a permanent personal memento of the award, and the club or society publishing the winning report will be authorised to use the logo of the Award on their reports and in their advertising and promotion.

Entries (which need consist only of a copy of the club or society's 1991 report and a covering note stating the number of members, the price of the report and from whom it can be obtained) should be submitted at once if available (the closing date for entries is 15th December 1992) to Bird Report Award, British Birds, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Recommended bird-tour companies We are very pleased to announce that, following our perusal of its recent information sheets, improved in response to our suggestions, the bird-tour company '*Eryri Birds*' has now been added to the list of those recommended by *British Birds*. (It was only in respect of pre-tour paperwork that '*Eryri Birds*' failed to qualify as a result of the latest Overseas Bird Tours Survey, *Brit. Birds* 85: 211-237.)

The full list of 12 recommended companies is now as follows:

BIRDING Periteau House, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4EA
BIRDQUEST Two Jays, Temple End, Birdy Brow, Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB6 9QY
CALEDONIAN WILDLIFE 30 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AP
CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS 57 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1PG
ERYRI BIRDS Colin Thomas, 24 Tan-y-Bwlch Road, Llanllechid, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3HU
FIELD GUIDES INCORPORATED PO Box 160723-C, Austin, Texas 78716, USA
GOURMET BIRDS David Tomlinson, Windrush, Coles Lane, Brasted, Westerham, Kent TN16 1NN
LIMOSA BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS Chris & Barbara Kightley, Suffield House, Northrepps, Norfolk NR27 0LZ
NATURETREK Chautara, Bighton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9RB
SUNBIRD PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF
TOM GULLICK c/o Mrs M. Parker, 5 Tile Barn Close, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8LS
WINGS PO Box 31930, Tucson, AZ 85751, USA

January issue Please remember that the January issue of *BB* is always posted in mid January rather than in late December. A few panic-stricken subscribers phone us early each January about non-receipt of the first issue of the year.

If your address label was red, you will have received a renewal reminder with this issue; it would help the efficient distribution of next year's *BB* if you returned the form to us as soon as possible. Thank you.

News and comment

Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Rarities Committee Identification Meeting In addition to its annual meeting, at which policy and other general matters are discussed (e.g. see *Brit. Birds* 85:330-333), in most years the BBRC holds a second meeting to research identification issues relevant to the Committee's current and anticipated work. The 1992 identification meeting was held on 1st August in Tring at the British Museum (Natural History), to which the BBRC is very grateful both for the facility of a meeting room and for allowing a wide sample of all relevant skins to be made available for study.

Discussion took place on Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (wing length, underwing pattern and flight compared with Manx Shearwater *P. puffinus*), American Wigeon *Anas americana* (axillaries compared with Wigeon *A. penelope*), Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (variation in underwing pattern), Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* (general appearance compared with Lanner *F. biarmicus* and Saker *F. cherrug*), Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* and Little Crake *P. parva* (primary projections, spotting on coverts and patterns of tertials), American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* and Pacific Golden Plover *P. fulva* (breast pattern in summer plumage and comparison with Golden Plover *P. apricaria*, flanks and undertail-coverts in summer and variation in upperparts pattern), South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* (size, structure and plumage compared with Great Skua *S. skua*), Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* and Sooty Tern *S. fuscata* (head pattern and contrast between crown and mantle), Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* (nape colour, rump colour and coverts pattern compared with Turtle Dove *S. turtur* and difference in primary projection between the nominate race and *S. o. meena*), eastern Stonechats *Saxicola torquata maura/stejnegeri* (pattern of coverts, rump and underparts in spring compared with British Stonechat *S. t. hibernans*), Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* (variation in pattern of tertials), Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (structure and pattern of wing in comparison with Treecreeper *C. familiaris*), eastern Great Grey Shrikes *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris/homeyeri* (comparison between races), Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* (head-pattern variation of females), Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (colour of mantle and back), and Black-headed Bunting *E. melanocephala* and Red-headed Bunting *E. bruniceps* (comparison between females in respect of mantle colour, wing-bars and breast streaking).

The meeting's mixture of studying skins, viewing photographs and transparencies and exchanging opinions on numerous topics including identification, ageing, moult and policy matters made it a thoroughly interesting and productive day. The get-togethers—as with all of the Rarities Committee's work—are made possible only by the sponsorship provided by *CARL ZEISS—Germany*. With members travelling from as far apart as Shetland and Dorset to attend the Committee's meetings, this support by *ZEISS* is essential and very much appreciated. (*Contributed by Peter Lansdown*)

Help for storks Setting a clear example of the direction which corporate sponsorship of conservation should take is the German confectionary company, August Storck KG. Storck has made a £1 million donation to set up The Stork Foundation, which aims to initiate and finance the preservation and protection of the habitat of storks *Ciconia* in Germany, and internationally on stork migration routes between northern Europe and Africa.

Conservationists can breathe a sigh of relief—there is no intention to release non-migratory, captive-bred storks into the wild. Instead, the Foundation is concentrating on buying prime stork habitat in the former East Germany, which still has a stable population of White Storks *C. ciconia* of around 2,300 pairs. Land has already been acquired in the Dromling, an outstanding wetland in Saxony-Anhalt, which boasts a healthy stork population (as well as numerous pairs of Red Kites *Milvus milvus*, breeding Cranes *Grus grus* and Black Storks *C. nigra*, and wintering White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla*). The farmland will continue to be managed in an environmentally sensitive way. (*Contributed by David Tomlinson*)

Help OBC Have you sold those Oriental Bird Club raffle tickets inserted recently with your *BB*? Dick Filby has asked us to remind you . . .



290. BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR 1992. Left to right, Philip Perry (2nd), Bob Glover (Winner), Mrs Dorothy Hosking (Guest Presenter), Gordon Langsbury (3rd), London, June 1992 (*Roger Tidman*)

BPY '92 With over 50 bird-photographers and guests, the Press Reception for presentation of the prizes for this year's Bird Photograph of the Year (*Brit. Birds* 85: 293-299) provided the usual enjoyable get-together. The major awards, funded by the competition's sponsors—Christopher Helm (Publishers) Ltd and HarperCollins Publishers Ltd—were presented by Mrs Dorothy Hosking (plate 290). As already noted (*Brit. Birds* 85: 467), the winner, Bob Glover, got a bonus by also winning the Windrush Photos Prize (plate 291).



291. WINDRUSH PHOTOS AWARD. Bob Glover (left) is congratulated by the Award's instigator, David Tomlinson, London, June 1992 (*Roger Tidman*)

Congratulations, Jeffery! After a long, distinguished career as a natural history filmmaker, firstly as a producer with the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol and then for the last five years as Head of Film and Video at the RSPB, Jeffery Boswall is now a senior lecturer in biological film and video at Derby University, where he will be able to pass on his skills to a new generation of factual and natural history film-makers. For this change of role, he has changed his 'plumage' and now sports a beard, but one thing that has not changed is his involvement with the biannual Bath Spa International Wildlife Film-makers' Symposium.

88 years ago This is not (Ed. please note!) an attempt to usurp the traditional 'historical spot' giving accounts of happenings in the past, but we were intrigued by an account of the AGM of the Society for the Protection of Birds (soon to gain its Royal Charter and become the RSPB) in February 1904. The Chairman, Montagu Sharpe, in a lengthy address, is talking about the commonplace habit in those days of immediately shooting any rarity that appeared. He cites the appearance of Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus*—and the likelihood of his having tendered a spurious 'apology for absence' had any appeared within reach of London on the day of that AGM. Many modern-day birders could identify with that comment. More seriously, he goes on to say that 'He hoped the time would come when the appearance of a rare bird would cause many people to go to see it, but that not one would go to shoot it. That was the particular sort of millenium which this Society wanted to bring about; and when it was reached the So-

ciety might be dissolved.' Sharpe had no way of knowing that, in part, his wishes would be fulfilled—but not quite in the way he had in mind. It is a sad reflection on our times that more and more people go to look at rare birds (and common species), but that the need for organisations such as the RSPB is probably greater than it has ever been . . . Our thanks to RSPB librarian Ian Dawson for bringing this piece to our attention.

Khao Yai closure under review The banning of overnight stays and proposed dismantling of the accommodation at Thailand's Khao Yai National Park, ordered last winter by the Anand Panyarachun I Government (*Brit. Birds* 85: 140), will now be reconsidered by new Agriculture Minister, Kosit Panpiamrat, who has instructed the Forestry Department to conduct a study of the positive and negative effects of the closure over the next 12 months (*Bangkok Post*, 4th September 1992). We hope that the study will take full account of the views of professional conservationists, such as the team at Mahidol University, and the opinions of other experts, such as the officers of the Bangkok Bird Club.

Our own view is that the limited and well-sited accommodation encourages responsible use of the Park by naturalists wanting to study the wildlife, whereas closure produces a detrimental increase in traffic on the Park's roads. The best course would perhaps be a compromise, with in-park accommodation reserved mainly for naturalists, and a daily licence system limiting the number of cars and other vehicles allowed in the Park.

We welcome the shelving of the earlier hasty decision, and now look forward to the results of the full review of the pros and cons. (*JTRS*)

Gurney's Pitta Despite statements to the contrary elsewhere, there has not been a disastrous decline in numbers of Gurney's Pittas *Pitta gurneyi*; at the main site this year. Indeed, numbers have remained more or less stable: a census revealed about 17-19 probable breeding territories, with three nests found, from two of which young fledged. (*Contributed by P. D. Round*)

Welcome 'Ornis Hungarica' We have just received the first issue (volume 1, no. 1) of *Ornis Hungarica*, the journal of the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Protection Society. The instructions to authors request that 'Manuscripts should be written in English or Hungarian (preferably English)', and in this first issue 80% of the contents are in English. Papers include 'Bird community changes in different-aged oak forest stands', 'Guild structure and seasonal changes in foraging behaviour of birds in a central European oak forest', 'Effect of environmental factors on tits wintering in a Hungarian marshland', and 'Monitoring of abundance and survival rate of a Sand Martin population' (in Hungarian). The annual subscription, for two issues, is US$25.00, payable to the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Protection Society, Postabank 402-4131-916-01; the address of the HONPS is Budapest, Költö u. 21. H-1121, Hungary.

ABA tops 10,000 That circulation milestone —the magic ten-thousandth member (which *BB* reached in 1986)—was achieved in August 1992 by the American Birding Association.

You can get a sample copy of the ABA's magazine, *Birding*, for £2.00 or US$3.50 from PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, USA.

How's your German? The excellent German birding magazine *Limicola* continues to provide interesting, very well-illustrated articles, with helpful English summaries. The latest issue (vol. 6, no. 3, June 1992) has a paper on Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*, a 'Rätselvogel' (we'd call it 'Mystery photograph') and a feature on Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* and Great Knot *C. tenuirostris*. For subscription details, write to Limicola, Thieplatz 6A, OT Hollenstedt, D-3410 Northeim 12, Germany; telephone (05551) 51236; fax. 54924. (*JTRS*)

1993 Wildlife Calendar Twelve new paintings by members of the Society of Wildlife Artists have been commissioned by Lloyds Private Banking for a desk calendar, *Wild Britain 1993*, measuring 20 × 24.5 cm. This is a limited-edition calendar and sales will benefit the SWLA, a registered charity, and help towards a bursary scheme for young wildlife artists being set up by Lloyds and the Society. The paintings are by David Binns, Hilary Burn, John Busby, John Davis, Robert Gillmor, Andrew Haslen, Matthew Hillier, Lars Jonsson, Bruce Pearson, Chris Rose, Keith Shackleton and Simon Turvey. Copies are available at £8 each (including post and packing), from Wild Britain Calendar, 58 Northcourt Avenue, Reading, Berkshire RG2 7HQ. Cheques should be made payable to the Society of Wildlife Artists.

Artwork Nice to see that the work of Peter Leonard—Richard Richardson Award winner

last year—has been commissioned for the latest brochure from the bird-tour company 'Birding' (Periteau House, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4EA).

Richard Richardson The promised (*Brit. Birds* 85: 467) issue of the *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 1991* containing drawings by the 12 winners of the Richard Richardson Award during 1979-91 (and also over 30 drawings by other artists), published to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Norfolk bird artist Richard Richardson, is now available, price £4.00, from Mrs M. Dorling, 6 New Road, Hethersett, near Norwich NR9 3HH.

Young Ornithologist wins Russian prize Mark Gurney, winner of the *BB*-sponsored Young Ornithologist of the Year Award in 1991 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 237-238), was one of 60 young birdwatchers (mostly Russian but also American as well as British) who spent ten days in Russia and entered a competition with written and oral tests on the wildlife of the area. Mark came through to win that competition too, and received a certificate and a Russian 'egg' in the shape of a Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

'First United States record of the White-throated Robin' J. G. Park has drawn our attention to the Texan record in February 1990 (*American Birds* 45: 230-231). What an amazing journey for a chat with a breeding range restricted to Turkey and the Near East.

Or was it? Actually, this record does not refer to *Irania gutturalis*.

The only other White-throated Robin indexed by Sibley & Monroe (1990, *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*) is an alternative name for the White-eyed Robin *Pachycephalopsis poliosoma* of New Guinea, an even-more-unlikely vagrant to the USA.

In fact, the 'White-throated Robin' referred to in *American Birds*—and spotted by Mr Park in the BOU's 'Recent ornithological literature' listings (*Ibis* 134 (2, Suppl.): 258)—is *Turdus assimilis*, the White-throated Thrush, of Central America. Clements (1981, *Birds of the World: a checklist*) uses White-throated Robin as the English name for both *I. gutturalis* and *T. assimilis*, but calls *P. poliosoma* the White-throated Thicket Flycatcher, the name also used by Howard & Moore (1984, *A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*).

Confused? It is hardly surprising if you are. Whether or not you favour the world-wide standardisation of English names currently being undertaken at the behest of the International Ornithological Congress, it will at least rid us of the many such sources of possible confusion.

Thank heavens that, shining through this colourful, if perhaps confusing, list of English names, there is that consistent, reliable, scientific name, where (provided it is included) the true identity can always be found.

Hurricane 'Andrew' As we go to press, we have learnt from P. William Smith that the 48-km-wide swathe of destruction caused by hurricane 'Andrew' as it cut across southern Florida, on 24th August 1992, has flattened most popular birding locations in its path. Bill Baggs – Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Castellow Hammock County Park and the uplands of Everglades National Park have been reduced to matchwood and are closed indefinitely to public access. He tells us that motels and other tourist facilities in the Homestead and Florida City area have been largely obliterated, and that birdwatchers planning to visit Florida should console themselves with the fact that the Florida Keys and the mainland from downtown Miami northwards were barely affected.

Another silly There seems to have been a dearth of misprints during the summer. The only one that we have spotted was in the *Bristol Observer* on 24th July, which referred to Piebald Flycatchers, which is not that silly on reflection. Eagle-eyed newspaper and magazine readers are asked to let us know if they spot any good howlers. Thanks.



292. 'You don't have to have a sense of humour to work for *BB* . . . but it helps!' Bonny Shirley and Sheila Cobban of *BB*'s Editorial Office (*British Birds*)

New Recorder Graham Elliott, 3 Greenway, Buckden, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 9TU, has taken over from John Clark as Recorder for Huntingdon & Peterborough.

Change of address of County Recorder Mark Hardwick, County Recorder for London, has moved to The Garden Flat, 13 Southcote Road, Tufnell Park, London N19 5BJ.

Request

Status of Wood Duck The Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* was added to Category D of the British and Irish list in 1971, as it was unclear whether or not feral birds nesting in southern England had established self-sustaining populations. The position was reviewed in 1972 and 1978 and the species retained in Category D on each occasion. The BOU Records Committee would welcome comments on the present status of Wood Duck in the wild in Britain, particularly any information, positive or negative, on recent breeding records and success and of known releases and escapes. The Committee is also aware that a Wood Duck ringed in North Carolina, USA, was subsequently shot in the Azores, and would welcome details of records which may relate to genuinely wild individuals in Britain. Information should be sent to Tim Inskipp, 219C Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL.

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 4th September to 15th October 1992

These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* Isles of Scilly, 10th September; off Portland Cliffs (Dorset), 7th October.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* Galley Head (Co. Cork), 1st October.

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus* Guernsey (Channel Islands), intermittently from 13th-24th September.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* Davidstowe area (Cornwall), 2nd to 9th October.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* North Slob (Co. Wexford), 3rd-6th September.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* Fair Isle (Shetland), 13th-15th September.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* Hartlepool (Cleveland), 11th October.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* About 22.

Pechora Pipit *A. gustavi* Fair Isle, 15th October.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* Five.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* Holkham (Norfolk), 18th September; Fair Isle; 19th-20th September; Snettisham (Norfolk), 26th September.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* Mizen Head (Co. Cork), 10th to at least 15th October.

Pied Wheatear *O. pleschanka* Kilminning, Fife Ness (Fife), 18th-22nd September.

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 1st to at least 8th October.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* Fair Isle, 4th October.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* North Ronaldsay, 23rd-25th September.

Lanceolated Warbler *L. lanceolata* Scatness (Shetland), 17th September; Fair Isle, 28th September.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* Flamborough Head (Humberside), 27th September.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* Flamborough Head, 3rd-6th October; Cunningsburgh (Shetland), 3rd-12th October.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* About eight.

Radde's Warbler *P. schwarzi* Two in October.

Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus* Four in October.

Bonelli's Warbler *P. bonelli* About eight.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* Crookhaven (Co. Cork), 4th October.

Northern Parula *Parula americana* St Mary's (Scilly), at least 8th-10th October.

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* St Kilda, 10th September.

Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* North Ronaldsay, 22nd-23rd September.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* Portland, 14th-18th September.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111

(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)

We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature

BEAT THE PRICE RISE!

DUE TO STERLING DEVALUATION, 10%-15% INCREASES IMMINENT ON *MOST* GERMAN & JAPANESE OPTICAL PRODUCTS. BUY *NOW* WHILE EXISTING STOCKS LAST!

LCE

SCOPES

NIKON 5% OFF!
TAKE 5% OFF ALL PRICES BELOW - FOR LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

Spotting Scope c/w 20x £199
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45x £265
Fieldscope c/w 20x £304
Fieldscope c/w 20-45x £379.50
*EDII c/w 20x £554.95
*EDII c/w 20-45x £629.95
NEW! EDII Angled Body £640
COMING SOON!
30x WIDE EYEPIECE Eyepieces, photoadaptors etc, also stocked

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle) £219
TSN-602 Body (straight) £199
20 x WA £64
27 x (New) WA £94
TSN 1 Body (45° angle) £316
TSN 2 Body (straight) £316
TSN 3 Body (45° angle) £636
TSN 4 Body (straight) £636
20 x WA £109
25 x £69
30 x WA £139
40 x £69
60 x £119
77 x £109
20-60x Zoom £169
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof) £39.95
Standard Case £24.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm) £129

BAUSCH & LOMB

Elite 77mm Scope Body £375
Elite 20-60x Zoom £198
Elite 20x Eyepiece £149

SWIFT

Viewmaster c/w 15-60 x Zoom £198.95

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body £390
TBG 80 Body £390
20 x W £77
20 x WW £122
30 x £77
30 x WW £135
40 x £77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece £159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body £549

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case £179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case £189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case £229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case £219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case £249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x £269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x £168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x £206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x £183
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom £399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W £355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece £85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece £34
25 x HR Eyepiece £31
40 x HR Eyepiece £31
HR Photoadaptor Variable £33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Notarem 8 x 32B		£149.00
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	£169.95	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	£219.95	£189.00

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA

8 x 20 BC £199
8 x 20 BCA £239
10 x 25 BC £239
10 x 25 BCA £255
7 x 42 BA £649
8 x 42 BA £649
10 x 42 BA £649
All normally available in black or green finish.

OPTOLYTH

Royal 9 x 63 Rubber Armoured £485
Royal 12 x 63 Rubber Armoured £495
Alpin 8 x 30 (BGA) £227
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA £246
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA £249
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA £268
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA £273

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B £249
10 x 25 B £269
8 x 20 BGA £315
8 x 20 Monocular £139
8 x 30 BGAT* P £529
7 x 42 BGAT* P £639
8 x 56 BGAT* P £699
10 x 40 BGAT* P £639
4 x 12B Design Selection £295
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style) £295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style) £319
20 x 60 BGAT*P £2995

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact £215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism £365
10 x 25 Roof Prism Compact £240
NEW! 10 x 42 SLC Roof Prism £569

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B £239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY £269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA £199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Legacy 8 x 20 Roof Prism Compact NOW £79
Elite 8 x 42 BGA 'P' £649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA 'P' £649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA £629

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism £99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism £99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism £141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact £81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact £83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B £117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B £121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B £122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B £125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B £135
HR 8 x 32 MC £152
HR 7 x 42 MC £155
HR 8 x 42 MC £157
HR 10 x 42 MC £162
HR 10 x 50 MC £178
Minerva 8 x 30 £169
Minerva 8 x 40 £175
Minerva 10 x 40 £179
Observer 20 x 80 £409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass £239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof £183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF Compact £65
9 x 25 CF Compact £84
10 x 25 CF III Compact £112
8 x 20 F £134
10 x 25 F £149
8 x 23 CF Waterproof £170
10 x 25 CF Waterproof £175
6-12 x 24 Zoom Compact £299
8 x 30 WFC £199
8 x 40 Sporting II £119.95
10 x 50 Sporting II £139.95
7 x 50 Sporting II £129

ANGENIEUX

8 x 24 F Compact £249

FOR THE LOWEST PRICES & BEST ADVICE

SECONDHAND

BINOS

Swift Trilyte Mk III 10 x 40 £79
Penta 8 x 40 WA £89
Zeiss West 15 x 60 BGAT* £849
Zeiss West 10 x 40 BGAT £499
Nikon 8 x 20 Compact £49

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2 £72.95
Slik D3 £89.95
Velbon D-600 £69.95
Velbon D-700 £79.95

Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE – we will match or beat any currently advertised price for a new binocular or scope

WARNING:
BEWARE OF 'GREY' IMPORTS
MAY WE REMIND READERS THAT *ALL* OUR PRODUCTS ARE OFFICIAL UK IMPORTED STOCK - AND AS SUCH CARRY A *VALID MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY*

The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen)
Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm

0703 221597/33563

RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- Part exchange welcomed.
- Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- Major credit cards accepted.

VISA

D205

THE NHBS CHRISTMAS HOTLINE

Same Day Despatch Service •

Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East
Lars Jonsson 560 pages 140 colour plates
£25 published

Birds, Discovery and Conservation
Edited by David Snow, the BOC Centenary Volume. 208 pages
£19.95 published

Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 1
Ostrich to Ducks
Edited by Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliott & Jordi Sargatal
660 pages 67 colour plates, 350 colour photos, 566 distribution maps
£95 published

Shorelands Winter Diary
Charles Tunnicliffe
The recently discovered sequel to **Shorelands Summer Diary**
144 pages illus in colour and b/w
£16.95 published

Vultures of Africa
Peter Mundy et al
450 pages colour & b/w photos
£55 published

***(Subject to availability of stock, in UK only, for phone & fax orders received before 3 p.m.)**
(Postage & packing extra)

------- FORTHCOMING MAJOR TITLES -------

Birds of North America
700 separate species accounts to be published over the next ten years!
Ask for our BNA Prospectus

Birds of the Western Palearctic, Volume 6 - Warblers
Due for release in the first week of December
£75

Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern Spain
Due for release in early December
£9.75

Identification Guide to European Passerines
Lars Svensson New Edition
The ringer's bible. Due for release in December
£35

Order by phone, fax or letter, to: NHBS Ltd, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: 0803 865913 (4 lines) Fax: 0803 865280

NATURAL HISTORY BOOK SERVICE

The Professional Service for Ornithologists



D20

Like a good reason to go birding?



Alpine Swift ❑



Olive–backed Pipit ❑

Leica and the BTO will give you one. It's amazing what can turn up when you least expect it. All the birds right have been seen by birders during their *Listing with Leica* activities. And whilst they were out and about, these same birders have raised money to help Britain's birds .

Take part in the *Listing with Leica New Year Bird Count* in 1993, raise money for our migrant and resident birds, and win prizes worth over £8000.

The BTO – we offer you enjoyable ways to find out more about the birds around you.

So join us – *today!*



White–winged Black Tern ❑



Sora ❑



White's Thrush ❑



Pied Wheatear ❑

BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Registered charity no. 216652

Call 0842 750050 to join

I want to join the BTO now ❑ Please send me more information ❑ BBNov92
I enclose my cheque/PO for £17.00 ❑ or, I want a £3.00 discount, so please send me a Direct Debit form ❑ or, Please charge my credit card
Access ❑ Visa ❑ Amount £.....

Expiry Date: Name on card:

Card holder's signature:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Free!

Win one of five copies of *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* by Ian Lewington, Per Alström and Peter Colston. Just tick those birds you saw during 1991and return the form!

Artwork by Dave Nurney

Prizes donated by Bird & Wildlife Bookshop

BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Registered charity no. 216652

D206

Cygnus Wildlife

1993 programme of escorted birdwatching holidays

Destinations January-June include:

Northern India £1390 ● Cameroon £2100 ● Sri Lanka £1490
Cuba £1890 ● Tiger Special £1560 ● Bulgaria £850 ● Nepal £2390
Czechoslovakia £835 ● Texas £1190 ● Hungary £880
Majorca £570 ● Poland £830 ● Northern Spain £1590
Assam, Sikkim & Darjeeling £1950 ● Morocco £990 ● Bhulan £2750
Austria £670 ● Sabah £1790 ● Camargue £850

Other departures later in the year include Arizona & California, Washington State, Gambia, Argentina, Ecuador & Galapagos Islands, Kenya, and Australia.

Tour groups have a maximum of 18 participants, are escorted by experienced leaders and we cater for all levels of expertise. If you would like further information about any of these holidays, we will be delighted to receive your enquiry at the following address:

ABTA 62948

CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS,
57 FORE STREET, KINGSBRIDGE, DEVON TQ7 1PG
Telephone 0548 856178 Fax: 0548 857537



PAY LESS FOR

RARE BIRD NEWS

0881 888 111

FAST RELIABLE 24 HOUR NEWS

UP TO 30% CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER BIRDLINE

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS

0426 923 923

CALLS COST 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES

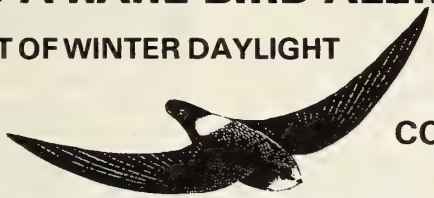
BIRDING SOUTH WEST

0891 884 500

RARITY, MIGRANT AND SEA-WATCHING NEWS. HOTLINE **0426 923 923**
ALL 0891 CALLS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE 48p/MIN PEAK/STD (D181)

LOOK INTO A RARE BIRD ALERT PAGER ...

MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER DAYLIGHT
SEE WHY IT'S THE BEST SERVICE ...



PROVEN
RELIABLE
COMPREHENSIVE
in every way

RARE BIRD ALERT BIRD PAGERS



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS FOR YOURSELF:

The BEST news se...

There's no longer any need to wonde...ews is; WHEN you're going to find out ...ll spend findi...

Simply read all the news, as it ha... message pager, including updates, o...ews.

It's reliable, comprehensive and extremely cost effective, with no nasty surprises...e in.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OFFER
£75 OFF
Finishes 15 Nov

For an info pack with a sample print-out of a days messages and an order ...
call **Dick Filby** on 0603 767799 or call Inter-City, **Free**, and ask for Rare Bird Alert

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

(D211)

INTER-CITY PAGING

FOCALPOINT FIELDSHOWS

The binocular and telescope specialists
THE way to try and buy (10.30am–4pm)

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE, MARTIN MERE, Burscough, Lancs (M6, Jct 27).
Sunday 15th November 1992
Sunday 6th December 1992

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST CENTRE, WASHINGTON, Tyne & Wear (District 15).
Sunday 22nd November 1992

All are welcome at these events. They are staffed by experienced birders who will help you choose. Information packs and appointments on request – let us know your specific requirements.

MAJOR ART EVENT AT MARTIN MERE
18th Sept – 18th Oct inclusive



DIRECTIONS
M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after 1/2 mile.

FOCALPOINT
Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW
Tel: 0925-730399 Fax: 0606-892207 D215

DRY TORTUGAS and Florida Specialties

No one knows Florida like we do. Our goal is to show you the greatest number of birds with an emphasis on rare Florida specialties and Caribbean accidentals. Our Super Tour from Orlando to Key West and three Dry Tortugas dates give you the opportunity to see every Florida specialty. Join us for a great birding adventure.

THE VERY BEST TOUR AT THE VERY BEST PRICE

Florida Super Tour	April 1-9, 1993
Dry Tortugas I	April 9-12, 1993
South Florida	April 12-15, 1993
Dry Tortugas II	April 15-18, 1993
Dry Tortugas III	April 19-22, 1993

We arrange individualized Birding tours for any size group.

FLORIDA NATURE TOURS
P.O.Box 5643
Winter Park, Florida 32793-5643 USA
Phone 010-1-407-273-4400 D214

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be
PREPAID
and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(These prices do not include VAT)
£2.50 a line—average of 6 words
£8.50 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

THE LAWNS HOTEL
Elegant Georgian Hotel
Excellent Food & Accommodation
3 crowns commended
Clev 5 miles: Bargain Breaks DB&b £39
Station Road, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: 0263 713390



(BB963)

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB266)
CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB237)
EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB213)
WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB235)
WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey, Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)
FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB171)
ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB208)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT, NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB243)

SCOTLAND

ABERNETHY & CAIRNGORM — up to Deluxe 5 crowns, 1993 brochure from Strathspey Self Catering, Grant Road, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3LA. Tel: 0479 2939. (BB232)
SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland, The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB269)
SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)
THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB183)

WALES

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest house standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB248)
YSBYTY YSTWYTH, s.c. cottage, 4/5, kite country, all year. Brochure 021-744 1947. (BB939)
SOUTH STACK, ANGLESEY. Tan-y-Cytiau Country Guest House. Lovely comfortable Edwardian house peacefully situated on slopes of Holyhead Mountain. Gardens bordering South Stack RSPB Reserve. Friendly atmosphere, excellent fresh cuisine. Licensed. S.C. Lodge in grounds sleeps 7. Phone Pam or Stan Keating on 0407 762763 for brochure. (BB238)

OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA, CAIRNS, JULATTEN. At Kingfisher Park we provide accommodation and camping facilities in a rainforest sanctuary for native birds and animals. We are central to a variety of habitats and cater for the interests and enthusiasms of birdwatchers and naturalists. Write now for a free birdlist to Kingfisher Park, P.O. Box 3, Julatten, Queensland, Australia 4871. (BB221)
HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, I 3200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB279)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

HONK KONG. Superb birding September to May — variety of accommodation — trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB228)

'HIGH ISLAND'
UPPER TEXAS COAST U.S.A.
Just opened. Bed and breakfast for groups of 4 or 8. 'Birder's Haven, P.O. 309, High Island, Texas 77623. Tel: 409 286 5362 or 214 824 5390. (BB242)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 1008 SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

WildWings

The Travel Agency for Birdwatchers

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS...Worldwide

Return fares from London from

U.K./EUROPE	£69
M. EAST	£145
CARIBBEAN	£325
C. & S. AMERICA	£359
AFRICA	£109
N. AMERICA	£199
ASIA	£280
AUS/NZ	£499

SEA TRAVEL : CAR HIRE : INSURANCE
PACKAGE HOLIDAYS (Save up to £150)
ACCOMMODATION : EXPEDITIONS & GROUPS

ANTARCTIC & FALKLANDS
Tours from £2850 pp. Brochure & Video available.

Ask for leaflet detailing our services.

0272-259999 21 PENN ST, BRISTOL BS1 3AU
or DICK FILBY 0603-767-757 MON-FRI
ABTA 65077

BB262

NEW ZEALAND

For the best of NZ birding, write Nature Quest New Zealand, Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand for custom departures or details of self drive consultancy.

Tel & Fax: (03) 489 8444

(BB031)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL

ABTA 97237

100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS

'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'

EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES - WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

SPECIALIST ADVISER - ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)

ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB204)

SPAIN

Mancha & Central Sierras
Pyrenees & Ebro Delta
May and June 1993

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Tom Gullick lives in Spain. He will show you the rarest birds in the most beautiful and remote areas. Expect to see 5 different eagles, 3 vultures, 2 bustards, 2 sandgrouse, White-headed Duck, Gallinule, Eagle Owl, Black Stork, with many ducks, waders and passerines on migration. Also Lamergeier, Wall-creeper, Dupont's Lark, Alpine Accentor, Black Woodpecker, Snow-finch, Citril, Capercaillie on Pyrenees & Ebro Delta tour. 8 day tours **3-4 persons only**, by Range Rover. 20 years and over 1,600 days of field experience in Spain.

Tom Gullick, c/o Mrs M. Parker,
5 Tile Barn Close, Farnborough,
Hants. GU14 8LS.
Tel: 0252 547213.

(BB272)

SRI LANKA

Combine serious bird watching (21 endemic species) with a wonderful holiday in our superb Island. For tailormade trips (individuals and groups) contact the experienced specialists:

A BAUR & CO (TRAVEL) LTD
PO BOX 11, COLOMBO 1
FAX NO. 0094-1-448493 (BB256)

AFRICA:
BOTSWANA — NAMIBIA — ZIMBABWE

Top birding venues in superb wildlife areas. Small groups led by expert ecologist Dr Mark Caulton. Priced from £700 for 16 days all inclusive. Contact:

Pelican Safaris & Ecotour, Box 555, Umkomaas 4170, South Africa, or phone 0727 873934 a/h

(BB280)

NEW FOR 1993
A New Concept in Budget Birding Holidays
FULLY-ESCORTED WEEKS FOR
UNDER FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS!

We are now able to offer self-catering options to a 'new' and exciting area of Southeastern Spain at bargain prices.

- ★ Wetlands, Mountains, Coasts — excellent, varied lists.
- ★ Experienced English leader.
- ★ Quality accommodation, with choice of self-catering or very reasonable meals.
- ★ Small, relaxed groups.
- ★ Varied and flexible birding arrangements.
- ★ Several departures.

Write for details: Calandra Holiday, P.O. Box 89, Ashford, Kent TN24 9TE, or call 0233 628547.

***Also fully-inclusive tours** — options available — details on request.*

(BB245)

BIRD INFORMATION

The BEST service

SAVE £75

Rare Bird Alert Bird Pagers
ANNIVERSARY OFFER finishes 15 Nov
The proven, comprehensive service
Call 0800 246 246
or call Dick Filby on 0603 767799

(BB293)

PERSONAL

CHRISTIAN SINGLES. Social activities. Friendship. Fellowship groups. Holidays. CFF Dept B124, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (BB252)

BIRD REPORT

AVON BIRD REPORT 1991. £3.50 post paid. Also available, new Avon Breeding Birds Atlas £5.75, or £9 the two. From J. B. Tully, 6 Falcondale Walk, Bristol BS9 3JG. (BB268)

BIRDS OF BERKS 1990 £3.30 incl p&p from 7 Llanvair Dr, S. Ascot, Berks SL5 9HS. (BB277)

BIRDS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 1991, £3.00 inc p&p from Mr G. Ellis, 2 Tracey Close, Beeston, Nottingham. (BB275)

JERSEY BIRD REPORT 1991. 52pp. First issue. £3.50 post free. From Ian Buxton, Le Petit Huquet, La Rue Du Hucquet, Saint Martin, Jersey. (BB278)

NEW EXPANDED 76-page Lindisfarne's Birds now available. History, seasons, migration, research, 293 species detailed. £3.65p inc. p & p from NTBC, West Farm, Kirkheaton, Northumberland NE19 2DQ. (BB234)

COURSES

STOCKHOLM ISLAND off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art and Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Full board accommodation. Send SAE to Dept BB, Dyfed Wildlife Trust, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF (0437) 765462. (BB285)

SITUATIONS VACANT

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

WARDEN

Applications are invited for the post of warden starting April 1993. Would suit couple with young family but single persons considered. Must be ringer and highly competent birder. Write for prospectus and application form to:

FIBOT, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT (BB284)

CB RADIOS

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS. SAE for details/price list to Omega, 43 Hemlington Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG, 0642 595845. (BB286)

BOOKS

APPEARED: Catalogue nr. 12: Nature. Write: Antq. Moby Dick Schoolstraat 31, 2202 HD, Noordwijk, Holland. (BB292)

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB281)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel: 0433 630137. (BB247)

BIRD BOOKS: Out-of-print, uncommon and rare. Quarterly catalogue. Peacock Books, Box 2024, Littleton, Mass. 01460, USA. (BB239)

Wide selection of ornithological & natural history titles available from stock, also travel books & maps.

Mail order catalogue on request

Tel: 0352 770881
Fax: 0352 771590

WILDLIFE & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

SUBBUTEO
NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS LTD

Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. (BB)
Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd,North Wales. CH7 4LN

(BB119)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407

(BB250)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £6.45 inclusive p/p to:

Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP (BB223)

BIRDWATCHING IN CRETE 2nd Ed. £3.75 inc. p&p. Stephanie Coghlan, 25 Thorpe Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD5 8TA. (BB270)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3JP (Tel: 09315-282). (BB066)

THE HEN HARRIER by Donald Watson. Signed Ltd. Ed. Colour print. £27.50 or leaflet avail. Cat. of Bird Books avail. West Coast Bird Books, 25, Heatherways, Freshfield, Liverpool L37 7HL. (07048 71115). (BB291)

In Search of Breeding Birds
by
DESMOND NETHERSOLE-THOMPSON

A series of essays which appeared in the Oologists Record in the early 1930's. These include studies of Peregrine, Hobby, Woodlark, Dartford Warbler etc. Foreword by Maimie Nethersole-Thompson, approx. 150 pages. Price £14.95, p&p £2.50.
Orders & cheques to Peregrine Books, 27 Hunger Hills Ave, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5JS.
Telephone: 0532 585495 (BB265)

FOR SALE

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binoculars and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002 (BB145)

BAUSCH & LOMB 8 x 42 BA Elite. Unused (unwanted gift) and unbelievable at £495. Bell quickly (0603) 702464 day or 279500 eve and w/e. (BB290)

THE HEN HARRIER (Poyser) mint £75. Phone or fax (+33) 1-43-26-55-17. (BB288)

THINK YOU HAVE THE BEST Telescope? Maybe! The best eyepieces? Never! Osborne Optics 091-2638826 for colour literature. Special Offer! 12 x 50 B Dodecarem Carl Zeiss Jena binoculars only £249. (BB282)

AVIAN PHOTOS
Dave Cottridge, Tim Loseby, David Tipling

SLIDE DUPLICATE SERVICE

Slide Duplicates £2.00 each + 30p p&p. Available now. Many species from around the world in different aspects of plumage and behaviour. Includes comprehensive collection of British birds.

RARE BIRDS IN BRITAIN

6" x 4" colour prints £1.50 each + 30p p&p. Prints of many of the latest rarities.

Send large S.A.E. for catalogues of both slide duplicates and rare bird prints to: David Tipling, 99 Noah's Ark, Kemsing Park, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PD.
Tel: 0732 63486 (BB274)

BB FOR SALE. Apr 79-Mar 92. Indexes. Unbound. Offers? Tel: 0753 860188. (BB267)

BIRD JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB276)

BWP 1 & 2 RSPB. £80. 'British Birds' unbound 1983-88. Offers? Tel: 0527 576841. (BB289)

CARRY your tripod securely and in comfort with a Podstrap — £8.50 inc p&p from Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT.

NIKON FIELDSCOPE EDII 20-45 25x eyepiece. UK cards. Excellent condition. £460. Tel: 081-643 2178 (evenings). (BB264)

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK LEVENE.

Many British rarities including all Scilly birds in 1991, also prints and slides of Birds of the USA and Canada, Israel, Spain, Hong Kong etc. 6 x 4 prints £1.50 plus 30p post and packing. Please send a SAE for a catalogue.

Jack Levene, 6 Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6SJ. Phone 0206 298345. (BB273)

HEN HARRIER Limited Edition print by Donald Watson. Phone: 0245-267771 for full colour leaflet. (BB294)

DONALD WATSON. John Busby original book illustrations for sale. Tel: 0245-267771 (office hours). (BB295)

ZEISS DIALYT 10x40B with case. Well used but optical sound. £195. Tel: (Bradford) 0274-871074 (evenings). (BB296)

WALKERS

Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods – SLRs – compacts

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * OPTOLYTH * ADLERBLICK**

PRACTIKA SPORT
8 x 25 ARMOUR
SRP £54.99

£32.50

RUSSIAN

7 x 35	£27
8 x 30	£27
8 x 40	£30
10 x 50	£30
12 x 40	£33
20 x 60	£59

KOWA 15% PRICE RISE
LEITZ 15% PRICE RISE
OPTOLYTH 15% PRICE RISE
BUY NOW AT OLD PRICES WHILST YOU CAN!

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334 (D212)

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 11 November 1992

577 **Editorial: Past, present and future**

578 **Dispersal and age of first breeding of Buzzards in Central Wales** *P. E. Davis and J. E. Davis*

587 **Identification pitfalls and assessment problems** *14* Crane *Iain S. Robertson*

592 **Monthly marathon**

593 **Mystery photographs** *182* Royal Tern *Dr Simon Cox*

595 **Golden-winged Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic** *Paul Doherty*

600 **Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs** *Don Smith, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock and Roger Tidman*

611 **ICBP news** *Dr Georgina Green*

612 **The 'British Birds' Best Bird Book of the Year**

613 **PhotoSpot** *33* White-breasted Kingfisher *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

Review

615 'Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland', 6th edn, compiled by A. G. Knox for the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union *A. R. Dean*

Notes

616 Kingfisher apparently feeding on blackberries *G. Alexander*
616 Swallows feeding live honeybees to their young *N. A. J. Wilde*
616 Swallows roosting on ship at night *Geoffrey Boyle*
617 Blackbirds consuming flowers *C. W. Holt*
617 Display by female Blackbird *D. Macdonald*
617 Aggressive Blackbird grounding Little Owl *Don Taylor*
618 Song Thrush feeding on periwinkles *N. V. McCanch and Mrs M. McCanch*
618 Recently fledged Long-tailed Tits in February *Brian Thompson*
619 Long-tailed Tit apparently weaving its own tail into nest structure *Simon B. Rix*
619 Twites eating seaweed *David C. Jardine*

Letters

620 Shell identification *A. R. Walker*
620 English names *Dr Simon Dowell; I. M. Lewis*

621 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

621 Seventy-five years ago . . .

622 **'The Carl Zeiss Award'** *Peter Lansdown and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

Announcements

623 British BirdShop Subbuteo delivers the goods
623 Books in British BirdShop
623 'BB' ties
623 English names: results of referendum
625 The 'BB' Award for the Best Annual Bird Report
625 Recommended bird-tour companies
625 January issue

626 **News and comment** *Robin Prytherch and Mike Everett*

Request

630 Status of Wood Duck *Tim Inskipp*

630 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

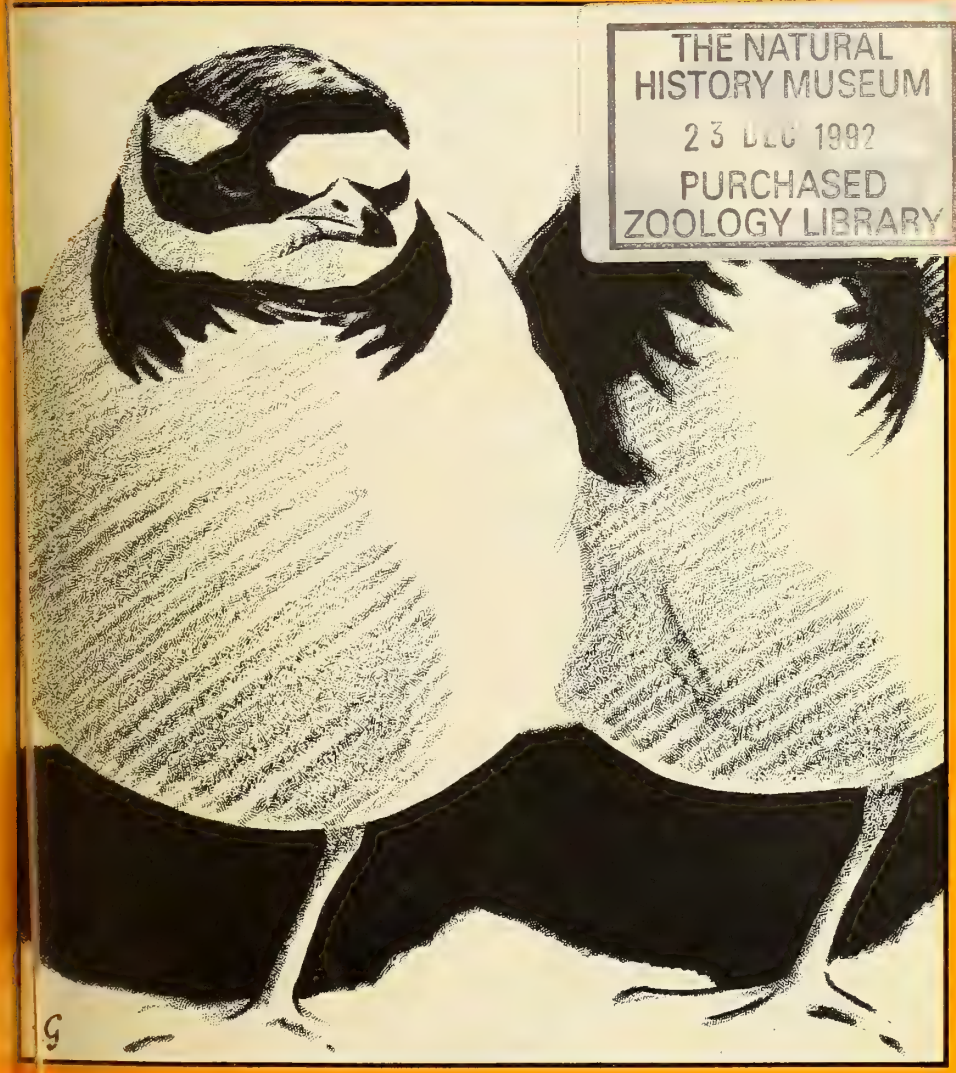
Line-drawings: 578 Buzzard (*Bruce Pearson*); 595 Golden-winged Warbler (*Dave Nurney*)

Front cover: Bramblings (*A. Smith*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 18.6 × 20.8 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 46 in January issue for procedure)

23. 12

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 12 December 1992



THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
23 DEC 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland Spring 1992

Identification of Black-faced Bunting

Studies of Azores Bullfinch

ICBP news • Mystery photographs • Reviews . Fieldwork action
Announcements • Requests • Diary dates • Notes • Letters
News and comment • Monthly marathon • Recent reports

British Birds

Managing Editor **Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Personal Assistant **Sheila D. Cobban** *Assistant Editor* **David A. Christie**
Editorial Board **Dr R. J. Chandler, R. A. Hume, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, R. J. Prytherch & Dr J. T. R. Sharrock**
Photographic Consultants **Don Smith & Roger Tidman**
Art Consultants **Robert Gillmor & Alan Harris**
Rarities Committee **P. G. Lansdown** (Chairman); **Dr Colin Bradshaw, Alan Brown, G. P. Catley, Peter Clement, Pete Ellis, S. J. M. Gantlett, C. D. R. Heard, R. A. Hume, J. H. Marchant & Grahame Walbridge; Peter Colston** (Museum Consultant & Archivist); **Peter Fraser** (Statistician); **Michael J. Rogers** (Honorary Secretary)
Notes Panels BEHAVIOUR **Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. M. Flegg, Derek Goodwin, Dr I. Newton, Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock & Dr K. E. L. Simmons;** IDENTIFICATION **Dr R. J. Chandler, A. R. Dean, R. A. Hume, T. P. Inskipp, P. G. Lansdown, S. C. Madge, I. S. Robertson & K. E. Vinicombe**



'British Birds' is published by a non-profit-making company for the benefit of ornithology

© British Birds Ltd 1992
Copyright of photographs remains with photographers. British Birds is published monthly by British Birds Ltd, 93 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
ISSN 0007-0335

Publishing Manager, Production & Promotion
Dr J. T. R. Sharrock
Circulation Manager
Erika Sharrock
Design
Deborah Felts
Advertising
Sandra Barnes

Addresses

Please keep correspondence on different items separate. Please address your envelope correctly. Please supply SAE, if reply required.

Papers, notes, letters, drawings & photographs for publication Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40025

Subscriptions and orders for back copies Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Biggleswade (0767) 40467

Advertising Mrs Sandra Barnes, BB Advertising, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. *Phone:* Tiptree (0621) 815085

Bird news for 'Seasonal reports' Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, c/o 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS. *Phone:* Woburn (0525) 290314 (evenings); Luton (0582) 490049 (office hours)

News items for 'News and comment' Mike Everett & Robin Prytherch, 7 Burlington Way, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE18 9BS

Rarity descriptions M. J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ

Special book and sound recording offers British BirdShop, c/o Subbuteo Books, Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd CH7 4LN. *Phone:* Mold (0352) 770581. *Fax:* (0352) 771590

Annual subscriptions (12 issues and index) Libraries and agencies £45.80, IR£53.50 or $86.50. Personal subscriptions: UK, Europe and surface mail £37.20, IR£43.60 or $70.00; personal airmail outside Europe £62.50, IR£72.95 or $118.00. Single back copies £4.75, IR£5.50 or $9.00.

Make all cheques payable to British Birds Ltd. Payment may also be made directly into UK Post Office GIRO account number 37 588 6303.

British Birds publishes material dealing with original observations on the birds of the West Palearctic. Except for records of rarities, papers and notes are normally accepted only on condition that material is not being offered in whole or in part to any other journal. Photographs and sketches are welcomed. Papers should be typewritten with double spacing, and wide margins, and on one side of the sheet only. Authors should carefully consult this issue for style of presentation, especially of references and tables. English and scientific names and sequences of birds follow **The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic** (1984); names of plants follow Dony *et al.* (1980, **English Names of Wild Flowers**); names of mammals follow Corbet & Southern (1977, **The Handbook of British Mammals**). Topographical (plumage and structure) and ageing terminology should follow editorial recommendations (*Brit. Birds* 74: 239-242; 78: 419-427; 80: 502). Figures should be in Indian ink on good-quality tracing paper, drawing paper, non-absorbent board or light blue or very pale grey graph paper; lettering should be inserted lightly in pencil; captions should be typed on a separate sheet. Authors of main papers (but not notes or letters) receive ten free copies of the journal (five each to two or more authors).

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

**MAIN STREET,
TITCHWELL,
NORFOLK PE31 8BB
Open 7 days
9 am - 6 pm
Phone 0485 210101**
HOW TO FIND US (Norfolk).
We are 500 yards east of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell on the A149 between Hunstanton and Brancaster and have our own private car parking.

in focus

THE BINOCULAR AND TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

**204 HIGH STREET, BARNET, HERTS. EN5 5SZ
Open 7 days 9 am - 6 pm Phone 081 449 1445
or 081 441 7748 Fax 081 440 9999**
HOW TO FIND US (Barnet) We are 10 mins from M25 and A1M motorways and 15 mins walk from High Barnet Tube Station.

**ANGLIAN WATER
BIRDWATCHING CENTRE
EGLETON RESERVE,
RUTLAND WATER, LEICS.
Open every day 9am to 4pm
except Thursdays.
Phone 0572 770656**
HOW TO FIND US (Egleton)
We are situated in the Birdwatching Centre Building on the Egleton Reserve at Rutland Water. Follow signposts to Egleton Village from A6003 to Oakham

FORTHCOMING FIELD EVENTS

RSPB Business Supporter

We are pleased to offer our customers the best viewing facilities around the UK at RSPB, WWT and County Trusts' Reserves. Demonstrations are usually from hides. Information and location packs are available for all events which are held from 10 am - 4 pm.

ICBP WORLD ENVIRONMENT PARTNER 1992

**RSPB DUNGENESS
KENT**
Sat 5th & Sun 6th December

**ABBERTON
COLCHESTER, ESSEX**
Sun 6th December
Sun 17th January

WWT SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTER
From Sat 12th to Wed 23rd December and from Sat 9th to Fri 22nd January
Open daily Tel: 0836 311398 for details

**HAUXLEY NATURE RESERVE
NORTHUMBERLAND**
Sat 12th & Sun 13th December

**FISHERS GREEN
LEE VALLEY, ESSEX**
Sun 13th December
Sun 10th January

**BROOMHILL FLASH
BARNSLEY, YORKSHIRE**
Sat 19th Sun 20th December

**WWT ARUNDEL
WEST SUSSEX**
Sat 19th & Sun 20th December

**LACKFORD WILDFOWL RESERVE
BURY ST.EDMONDS, SUFFOLK**
Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd January

**SWILLINGTON INGS
OULTON, YORKSHIRE**
Sat 16th & Sun 17th January

**WWT MARTIN MERE
ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE**
Sat 23rd & Sun 24th January

**WWT LLANELLI
DYFED, SOUTH WALES**
Sat 30th & Sun 31st January

IMPORTANT! IN FOCUS PLEDGES TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRICE-MATCHING POLICY. MANY OF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW REFLECT RECENT INCREASES FROM MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS. PLEASE CHECK BEFORE ORDERING AS WE DO HAVE SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE AT PRE-INCREASE PRICES. (Prices correct at time of going to press. E&OE).

TELESCOPE STAY-ON CASES

Essential for winter field conditions, stay-on cases are available for all Kowa TSN, Optolyth TBS/TBG and Nikon Fieldscope II/EDII 'scopes (a version for the new angled eyepiece model will shortly be available). Made from heavy-duty nylon, stay-on cases protect the condition of your telescope and extend their field-use to the most arduous conditions. Priced between £39.95 and £45.00. For all other 'scopes, similar protection on the tripod and when being carried - but not in viewing mode - can be provided by the Tamrac carry-case priced at £26.50

NEW SHOP AT RUTLAND WATER

Sited in the recently opened birdwatching centre on the Egleton Reserve, the latest binoculars and telescopes can be tested under field conditions in comfort with excellent views over Rutland Water. New and second hand optical equipment is available together with accessories and support systems as well as a full stock of birdwatching and naturalist books. Full ground-level viewing facilities for the disabled are available in addition to an upstairs viewing balcony.

NEW NIKON 30 x WF EYEPIECE NOW IN STOCK

We now carry this long-awaited eyepiece which fits the Fieldscope II and EDII models, but not the original Mk.I bodies. Usual high quality Nikon standards offering a wide-field of view with an unusually bright image for a 60mm 'scope. Now priced at £169.00

SWAROVSKI £
SLC II 8x30WBGA ... 412.00
SLC II 7x42 BGA ... 578.00
SLC II 10x42 BGA ... 629.00

CARL ZEISS DIALYT £
8X30 BGAT*P ... 529.00
7X42 BGAT*P ... 639.00
10x40 BGAT*P ... 639.00

NIKON £
8X30E ... 269.00
10x35E ... 299.00
30xWF (new) ... 169.00
S/Scope 20x60 ... 219.00
S/Scope 15-45x60 ... 289.00
Fieldscope II Body ... 299.00
Fieldscope ED II Body 549.00
(angled version add £50)
Eyepieces from ... 79.00

KOWA £
TS 601/602 Bodies ... 219.00
TSN 1/2 Bodies ... 367.00
TSN 3/4 Bodies ... 738.00
Eyepieces from ... 80.00

OPTOLYTH £
TBG/TBS Bodies ... 475.00
TBG/TBS HD Bodies 725.00
Eyepieces from ... 87.00

BAUSCH & LOMB ELITE £
7x36 BGAP ... 635.00
8x42/10X42 BGAP ... 699.00

LEICA TRINOVID £
8x32BA ... 649.00
7X42/8X42/10x42BA 698.00

BLUE RIBAND CARE PLAN

For a single payment of £15 the new In Focus Blue Riband Careplan offers :-

- Accidental damage cover for three years from date of purchase on all new binoculars and telescopes.
- Guaranteed part-exchange trade-in value on any further purchases with In Focus - rising to 100% of original purchase price after five years.

MAIL AND TELEPHONE ORDERS

Any orders received by mail or telepone will automatically qualify for a free Blue Riband Care Plan worth £15. Please remember to add £2.00 towards the cost of insured Trakbak postage and packing - whether paying by cheque, Visa, Access or Mastercard - and goods will be despatched with full 14 days approval the same day on receipt of your remittance.

BIRD ILLUSTRATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Write or phone for details of our intensive one-day bird illustration and photography workshops at Lemsford Springs led by, John Cox and Dave Cottridge respectively. **Further photo workshops with Dave Cottridge are being held at Slimbridge, Martin Mere and the Lee Valley in January, February and March.**
Bookings now being taken.

**FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL NEW AND SECOND HAND SCOPES
ASK FOR DETAILS**

PART EXCHANGE

Top prices paid for good condition telescopes and binoculars.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Three months interest-free credit available on all orders for new equipment of £400 and above.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSES

Write or phone for details of our new bird identification courses being offered from our Titchwell shop on the North Norfolk Coast. Bookings now being taken for the autumn and winter programme

TITCHWELL SHOP

Our Norfolk shop at Titchwell now carries a wide range of birding books in association with the Birds and Wildlife Bookshop in addition to being linked to the Rare Bird Alert Paging system - all sightings now being logged on the board outside the shop door. Richard Campey now manages the Titchwell shop on a permanent basis and being a keen birder in his own right brings a particular level of practical expertise to our Norfolk customers.

SECOND HAND ITEMS

Instruments always available.
On receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope we can supply current price lists of binoculars and telescopes.

FREE NORFOLK TWO DAY BREAK

at the Briarfields Hotel at Titchwell in Norfolk on all purchases of £400 or more at the current In Focus list prices.

(D229)

24-hour bird news simply available to any caller

BIRDLINE

0891 700 222

The premier national rare bird telephone information service, backed by an unrivalled team of experts.

The message is updated constantly, all day, every day.



Topical, lively, informative and ...

now in full colour

BIRDING WORLD

The monthly magazine that keeps you in the picture – the best, most colourful and most talked-about birders' magazine in Europe.

Subscribe now – it couldn't be easier.
Just send £25 (£31 overseas) to: *Birding World, Stonerunner, Coast Road, Cley next the sea, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7RZ, England* for the next 12 issues (or just send £2.00 for a sample issue).

ALL 0891 CALLS COST 36P/MIN CHEAP RATE, 48P/MIN PEAK/STD RATE INC VAT

D233

Bird Illustrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Kowa Telescopes

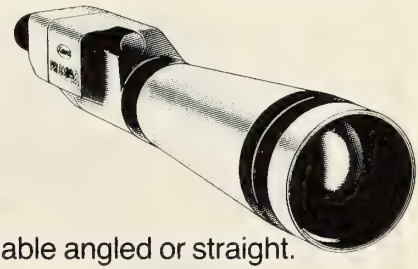


ed-breasted Mergansers displaying. Nik Borrow's award winning 1990 BIY Competition entry.

"First, and most important, this telescope is optically magnificent, with phenomenal clarity and a superbly large field of view.

If you are a birder who is seeking the best possible telescope . . . the optical gain is significant, especially in the worst viewing conditions. It is an elite instrument, to be treasured by those fortunate enough to own one."

Dr J T R Sharrock, testing the Kowa TSN-3 with ×20W eyepiece, British Birds June 1990.



Kowa TSN Fluorite lens scope, available angled or straight.

Kowa A superb image

Officially appointed distributor for Kowa Telescopes
Pioneer-SGI Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HA (D915)

NATURETREK

PIONEERING BIRD TOURS YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!

Our 1993 Programme includes

ROMANIA 2nd - 9th January *£790*
A winter tour of the Danube Delta, in search of Europe's greatest concentration of wildfowl, waders and raptors.

VIETNAM 9th - 31st January *£2,500*
A tour of the national parks and bird sanctuaries of southern Vietnam.

MANAS... & THE JUNGLES OF BHUTAN 13th January - 5th February *£2,990*
One of the most exciting and pioneering of all bird tours. Black-necked Cranes, Ibisbills, and a selection of some of the rarest Babblers are amongst the highlights. 20 new species were added to the Bhutan list in 1992!

SOUTHERN INDIA 23rd January - 10th February *£2,290*
A tour of national parks and sanctuaries in search of southern India's endemic birds and mammals.

BHUTAN'S NORTHERN FRONTIER 7th - 30th April *£2,990*
The most challenging of all bird tours! Trekking the high terrain along Bhutan's northern border with Tibet, we will be the first ever naturalists to visit this area, and will be making a serious attempt to log its birdlife. New records for Bhutan are guaranteed; the enigmatic Takin is a possibility!

NEPAL'S LANGTANG TREK 30th April - 23rd May *£1,890*
A classic trek for those wishing to see the best of Nepal's upland breeding birds. Naturetrek leaders have trekked this route over 20 times, giving us an unrivalled knowledge of the region and where best to find such rarities as Gould's Shortwing and Satyr Tragopan.

FORBIDDEN FORESTS OF PAKISTAN 6th - 24th May *£1,700*
A quest for the Western Tragopan, perhaps the world's rarest pheasant.

NEPAL'S KANCHENJUNGA TREK 21st May - 20th June *£1,990*
Long and hard, but undoubtedly Nepal's best birding trek.

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA 12th - 28th November *£1,890*
A search for the endemic birds of the forests, lakes and spectacular gorges of northern Ethiopia.

NEW ZEALAND'S SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS 28th December - 14th January 1994 *from £2,000*
The most comprehensive cruise of the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand & Australia ever organised. To include the Chathams, Bounties, Antipodes, Campbell, Macquarrie, Auckland, Snare and Stewart Islands. A must for any seabird fanatic!

PLUS
GALAPAGOS · TANZANIA · KENYA · NAMIBIA · MALAWI · BOTSWANA · ZAMBIA
MOROCCO · NORTHERN INDIA · LADAKH · CHINA · TURKEY · AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND · THAILAND · NORTH BORNEO · NEWFOUNDLAND · CYPRUS
CRETE · CZECHOSLOVAKIA · CORSICA · GREECE · SPANISH & FRENCH PYRENEES

PRIVATE TOURS & FLIGHTS ARRANGED ON REQUEST

BONDED WITH ATOL TRUST 1040



RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

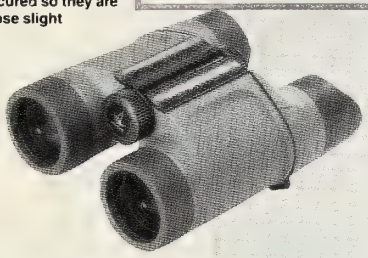
For our brochure please contact:
NATURETREK, CHAUTARA, BIGHTON, ALRESFORD, HANTS SO24 9RB. TEL: (0962) 733051

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
23 DEC 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

SLC BINOCULAR

MODEL ILLUSTRATED 8 x 30 SIX MODELS IN THE RANGE

The compact SL model has a new roof prism system to provide a neat and lightweight binocular you can take anywhere. Like its big brother the prisms are first laser aligned then secured so they are shock resistant. This process also eliminates those slight mis-alignments which you can't usually see, but can cause eye-strain and sometimes headaches.

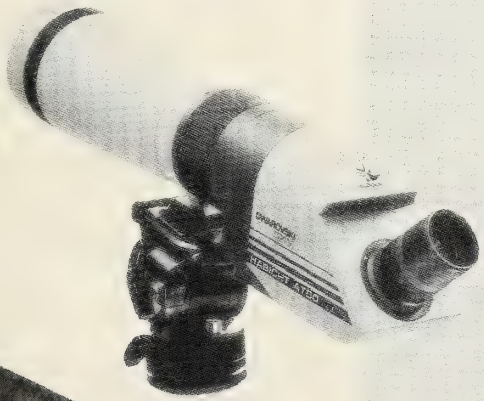


FULLY WATERPROOF

AT80 TELESCOPE

With a large 80mm diameter objective lens, the latest AT80 observation scope gives optimal performance even in poor light. Exchangeable oculars with bayonet catch and replaceable turn-back eyecups make for comfortable viewing, whilst ultra-fast focusing down to 6m provides a good all-round range. An integrated optik adapter enables the connection of a reflex camera for a new dimension in close-up photography.

FULLY WATERPROOF





8 x 20 B COMPACT BINOCULARS

FULLY WATERPROOF

The pocket sized Habicht 8 x 20 B binoculars represent the latest in state-on-the-art technology. Featuring a wide field of view with high-resolution image, they are the latest in a superb range of binoculars from Swarovski Optik, noted for its excellence in high quality optical performance.

All Swarovski Optik products are manufactured in Austria and carry a full warranty.

For further information and a full colour brochure please write to:

SWAROVSKI UK LIMITED
Fleming Way, Crawley. West Sussex RH10 2NL.
Telephone: 0293 525801. Fax: 0293 510018. Telex: 877643 SWARO G.

SWAROVSKI

The natural choice.

(D191)

FOCUS OPTICS

NEW BIRD and CONSERVATION CENTRE

Offering a comprehensive range of quality products for discerning Birdwatchers, Ramblers and Naturalists.

'ROHAN' 'CRAGHOPPERS' and 'SNOWGOOSE'
A full range of Top Quality outdoor clothing for Bird Watchers and Ramblers.

BOOKS
Birds, Natural History, Wild Flowers, Insects, Field Guides, Monographs Reference Books etc., from leading publishers. Worldwide Coverage.
Book Tokens available and exchanged.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

'BRASHER' Boots
Comfortable, Lightweight Waterproof and Strong.

'MEPHISTO' Boots and Shoes.
Sturdy and stylish - ideal for town and country!

'BILLINGHAM' Camera & Equipment Bags
Waterproof, Adaptable and Strong.

BIRD TABLES and NEST BOXES.
A complete range of nest boxes and bat boxes, made to BTO specifications by a local craftsman.

MAGAZINES
BIRDWATCH & BIRDWATCHING
available from our showroom.

RSPB and BTO
membership is available through Focus Optics. JOIN NOW!

BIRD FOOD and FEEDERS
C. J. Wildbird Food
All types and quantities with feeders to match. Simple wire cages to sophisticated large Polycarbonate feeders.

AUDIO CASSETTES
Bird call and song cassettes of birds in Britain and Europe.

VIDEO CASSETTES
RSPB, National Geographic, World of Survival, BBC. to entertain and increase your knowledge!

BAROMETERS
German movement, Double diaphragm, Hand turned in various wood surrounds.

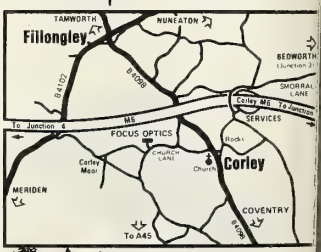
GREETINGS CARDS & Limited Edition Prints
by Wildlife Artist
David Fish

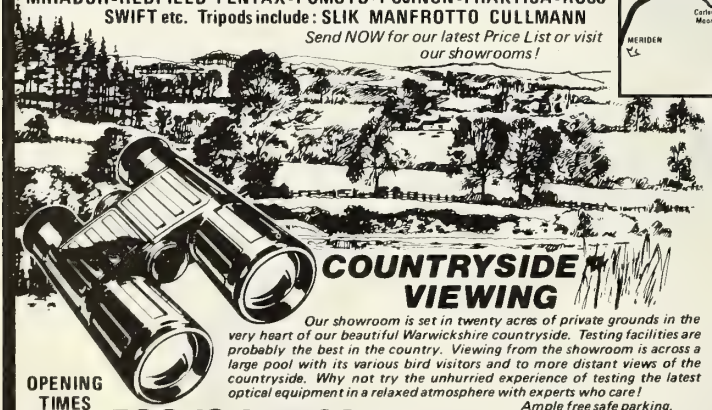
Leading specialists in BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES

We carry one of the most extensive ranges of Binoculars and Telescopes in the country, with the needs of the ornithologist in mind.

ZEISS • LEICA • HABICHT • BAUSCH & LOMB • OPTOLYTH • ADLERBLICK QUESTAR • NIKON • BUSHNELL • OPTIMA • KOWA • OPTICRON • BRESSER MIRADOR • REDFIELD • PENTAX • FUMOTO • FUJINON • PRAKTICA • ROSS SWIFT etc. Tripods include: SLIK MANFROTTO CULLMANN

Send NOW for our latest Price List or visit our showrooms!





COUNTRYSIDE VIEWING

Our showroom is set in twenty acres of private grounds in the very heart of our beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Testing facilities are probably the best in the country. Viewing from the showroom is across a large pool with its various bird visitors and to more distant views of the countryside. Why not try the unhurried experience of testing the latest optical equipment in a relaxed atmosphere with experts who care!

Ample free safe parking.

OPENING TIMES
Monday to Saturday
9am to 5pm

FOCUS OPTICS Church Lane, Corley, Coventry CV7 8BA
Telephone: 0676-40501 & 42476 Fax: 0676-40930

ACCESSORIES: Wide range of eyecups, rainguards, lens caps, lanyards, cases etc.

USED BARGAINS: Guaranteed secondhand equipment at bargain prices.

EXPORT FACILITIES: Personal and postal orders welcomed.

PACKAGE DEALS: Attractive discounts. Phone for quotations.

MAIL ORDERS: Orders over £100 insured P&P free of charge (UK only). Orders less than £10 P&P £2.00.
Goods are despatched promptly upon receipt of full remittance.

Use your ACCESS or VISA card to order by telephone.

E&OE

THE NHBS CHRISTMAS HOTLINE

*Same Day Despatch Service **

Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East
Lars Jonsson 560 pages 140 colour plates
£25 published

Birds, Discovery and Conservation
Edited by David Snow, the BOC Centenary Volume. 208 pages
£19.95 published

Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 1
Ostrich to Ducks
Edited by Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliott & Jordi Sargatal
660 pages 67 colour plates, 350 colour photos, 566 distribution maps
£95 published

Shorelands Winter Diary
Charles Tunnicliffe
The recently discovered sequel to **Shorelands Summer Diary**
144 pages illus in colour and b/w
£16.95 published

Vultures of Africa
Peter Mundy et al
450 pages colour & b/w photos
£55 published

***(Subject to availability of stock, in UK only, for phone & fax orders received before 3 p.m.)**
(Postage & packing extra)

------- FORTHCOMING MAJOR TITLES -------

Birds of North America
700 separate species accounts to be published over the next ten years!
Ask for our BNA Prospectus

Birds of the Western Palearctic, Volume 6 - Warblers
Due for release in the first week of December
£75

Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern Spain
Due for release in early December
£9.75

Identification Guide to European Passerines
Lars Svensson New Edition
The ringer's bible. Due for release in December
£35

Order by phone, fax or letter, to: NHBS Ltd, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: 0803 865913 (4 lines) Fax: 0803 865280

NATURAL HISTORY BOOK SERVICE

The Professional Service for Ornithologists



D209

1992 TITLES FROM ACADEMIC PRESS

The Vultures of Africa
Mundy et al
ISBN: 0-12-510585-1
November 1992, £55.00, 450 pp

Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World
Hancock et al.
ISBN: 0-12-322730-5
August 1992, £65.00, 392 pp

Birds of Africa, Vol IV
Keith et al.
ISBN: 0-12-137304-5
August 1992, £85.00, 632 pp

Audubon to Xantus
Mearns & Mearns
ISBN: 0-12-487423-1
September 1992, £29.50, 624 pp

Bird Census Techniques
Bibby et al.
ISBN: 0-12-095830-9
September 1992, £19.50, 272 pp

and T & AD POYSER

The Pied Flycatcher
Lundberg & Alatalo
ISBN: 0-85661-072-0
February 1992, £19.00, 280 pp

The Ancient Murrelet
Gaston
ISBN: 0-85661-070-4
February 1992, £17.00, 224 pp

The Pinyon Jay
Marzluff &Balda
ISBN: 0-85661-064-X
April 1992, £20.00, 344 pp

In Search of Sparrows
Summers-Smith
ISBN: 0-85661-073-9
February 1992, £17.00, 160 pp

ACADEMIC PRESS
HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH, PUBLISHERS
24-28 OVAL ROAD, LONDON NW1

(D222)

Now you don't have to get up at 5am to find the best birds

(Just wait until the postman comes!)

BIRDWATCH magazine gives you the most in–depth coverage of birds and birding you'll ever need.

In each colourful issue you'll find features on identification, conservation, birding 'hot–spots' at home and abroad, photography and all the latest news, reviews and rarity reports.

And from less than £2.00 per copy*, it's now also the best value birding magazine you can buy. Make sure you send off a subscription today and guarantee your copy.

BIRDWATCH

The magazine that gets you closer to the birds

*Subject to terms of special offer

Subscribe today!

❑ **Please send me 12 issues at the special rate of £23.50 (£33 organisations, £34 Europe & surface mail, £75 air mail)**

❑ Please send me 6 issues at the standard rate of £12.90 (£18 organisations, £19.20 Europe and surface mail, £44.90 air mail)

* I enclose a cheque/PO payable to Solo Publishing Ltd for £ _____

* Please debit £ _____ from my Access/Visa card number:

*Delete as appropriate Exp date

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Please return coupon and payment to:

BIRDWATCH Subscriptions, PO Box 1786, London E17 7JG

D20



FIELD DAYS

UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Kay Optical

Est.1962

SALES & REPAIRS

BINOCULARS – TELESCOPES – TRIPODS etc

Alternative venues to Morden, at which you can try and buy our equipment IN THE FIELD are given below. Kay Optical will be at the Visitor/Information Centre in each case. Any entrance or parking fees refunded with purchase. Repairs can also be handed in.
★ **10.00 am to 4.00 pm** ★

★ **PAGHAM HARBOUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**
on the B2145 into Selsey, West Sussex, on **Sundays 29th November, 20th December and 31st January.**

★ **SEVENOAKS WILDFOWL RESERVE**
on the A25 between Riverhead and Sevenoaks Bat and Ball station on **Sundays 6th December and 3rd January.**

★ **BOUGH BEACH NATURE RESERVE/RESERVOIR**
about 4 miles south of the A25/A21 junction (with access from the B2042 or B2027; the information Centre is to the north of the reservoir) on **Sundays 13th December and 10th January.**

★ **BEWL WATER**
on the A21, just south of Lamberhurst in the Education Centre on **Saturday 19th December.**

★ **ALTON WATER**
Suffolk, near Ipswich, on the B1080 between Holbrook and Stutton. In the Visitor/Information Centre on **Sunday 29th November.**

★ **COLLEGE LAKE WILDLIFE CENTRE**
near Tring, Herts., on the B488 (off the A41) close to Bulbourne. In the overlook hide on **Saturday 12th December and Saturday 23rd January.**

★ **SLIMBRIDGE, GLOS**
(off M5) Village Hall (on the left, halfway along village road into the W&WT). **Saturday 21st November.**

★ **DINTON PASTURES COUNTRY PARK**
near Reading (M4, A329(M) Woodley turnoff) and then A329 to Winnersh and Winnersh Station (B3030) on **Sunday 22nd November and 24th January** in the Loddon Room.

★ **THE SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST** at Woods Mill, Henfield, W-Sussex (A2037) on **Sunday 17th January.**

★ **DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK** off the A351 near Swanage, Dorset. In the visitor centre on **Sunday 10th January.**

★ **THE KENT TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION** in the Tyland Barn, near Sandling, Maidstone (off A229, Bluebell Hill, going south), on **Sunday 28th February.**

The staff of Kay Optical wish all our many customers a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and a **PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.**

Some examples of our stocks: **Bracket prices while stocks last**

FREE TRIPOD WITH ALL TELESCOPES — ask for details

	£
ZEISS	
10 x 25 B Dialyt	269
10 x 25 B/TP (New DS)	319
8 x 20 B/TP (New DS)	295
8 x 30 BGA/T (P)	529
7 x 42 BGA/T (P)	639
10 x 40 BGA/T (P)	639
15 x 60 BGA/T	1,190
8 x 56 BGA/T (without case)	699
BAUSCH & LOMB	
7 x 36 BA (PC3) Elite	599
8 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
10 x 42 BA (PC3) Elite	659
Custom 10 x 40 BGA	249
15–45x BGA Elite Scope	349
77mm Elite body	375
77mm Elite (ED) body	775
20x (WA) eyepiece	149
30x (LER) eyepiece	135
20-60x zoom eyepiece	198
800mm camera adaptor	159
800mm RA mirror lens kit	299
SWAROVSKI	
7 x 30 SLC (BM)	399
8 x 30 SLC (WB)	412
10 x 42 SLC (NEW)	629
LEICA	
8 x 20 BC Trinovid	219
8 x 20 BCA Trinovid	269
10 x 25 BC Trinovid	269
10 x 25 BCA Trinovid	298
8 x 32 BA Trinovid	649
7 x 42 BA Trinovid	698
8 x 42 BA Trinovid	698
10 x 42 BA Trinovid	698
SWIFT	
8½ x 44 HR Audubon	239
10 x 50 Audubon	249
NIKON	
8 x 23 waterproof	170
10 x 25 waterproof	175
8 x 20 F roof prism	150
10 x 25 F roof prism	165
8 x 30 ECF porro WF	249
10 x 35 ECF porro WF	279
Fieldscope II body (229)	279
Fieldscope ED II body (480)	530
45° Fieldscope IIA body (259)	295
45° EDIIA body (510)	530
15x, 20x, 30x or 40x EP (75)	85
30x (WA) eyepiece	169
60x eyepiece (85)	99
20-45x Zoom eyepiece (147)	160
Camera adaptor (168)	185
Mod. for other cameras	18
Quality filter	13
Rubber hood	8
Stay-on-case	
● FREE WITH STRAIGHT SCOPE ●	
Spotting scope 20 x 60 GA	232
Spotting scope 20-45x GA	292
KOWA	
TSN-1 (45°) body (316)	360
TSN-2 body (316)	360
TSN-3 (F) Prominar (45°) body (636)	725
TSN-4 (F) Prominar body (636)	725
25x or 40x eyepiece (69)	79
20x (WA) eyepiece (109)	124
30x (WA) eyepiece (139)	159
20x-60x zoom e'pce (169)	193
60x eyepiece (119)	136
77x eyepiece (109)	124
Camera adaptor, 800mm (129)	147
Camera adaptor, 1,200mm (199)	227
Kowa case (25)	28
Skua case	40
Spare OG cover (5)	8
27x (WA) screw-in eyepiece (64)	73
TS 601 scope body (45°)	219
TS 602 scope body (45°)	199
27x (WA) eyepiece (94)	107
20x (WA) eyepiece (64)	73
25x (WA) eyepiece (54)	62
20-60x zoom eyepiece (109)	124
Case (22)	26
VIEWMASTER	
45° scope body	149
25x eyepiece	30
27x (WA) eyepiece	64
OPTOLYTH	
8 x 30 Alpin	227
8 x 40 Alpin	246
10 x 40 Alpin	249
10 x 50 Alpin	268
12 x 50 Alpin	273
7 x 42 Alpin	257
TBG80 telescope body	475
TBS 80 (45°) body	475
TBG/TBS 80 Fluorite	725
30x (WW) new eyepiece	157
40x (WA) new eyepiece	87
Stay-on-case TBG/S	45
22-60x zoom eyepiece	179
TB nylon case	49
OPTICRON	
8 x 32 (HRII)	152
8 x 42 (HRII)	157
10 x 42 (HRII)	162
10 x 50 (HRII)	178
7 x 42 (HRII)	155
8 x 32 Dioptron	117
8 x 42 Dioptron	122
10 x 42 Dioptron	125
10 x 50 Dioptron	135
7 x 35 Elite	150
9 x 35 Elite	190
7 x 40 Minerva	172
9 x 35 Minerva	172
8 x 40 Minerva	175
10 x 40 Minerva	179
7 x 24 MCF	80
HR 60mm scopes - Std w/22x & case	180
Std w/zoom & case	220
GA w/22x & case (190)	275
GA w/zoom & case (230)	299
45° w/22x & case	220
45° w/zoom & case	250
HR Photokit	64
Filter	8
Rubber hood	5
BUSHNELL	
Spacemaster body	148
20-60x zoom EP	72
22x (WA) EP	32
25x or 40x EP	30
Photokit	62
Nylon padded case	15
REDFIELD (waterproof)	
7 x 30 RA roof prism	249
10 x 50 RA roof prism	299
GREENKAT	
8 x 30 ZWCF	69
8 x 40 ZWCF	75
SGN-III 60mm scope body	165
20x, 30x, 40x 50x or 60x EP	25
Close-up lens	24
Photo tube	23
Padded nylon case	15
TRIPODS etc.	
Slik D3	85
Slik 444 Sport	79
Slik Shogun	99
Manfrotto 144B/200	105
Manfrotto 190B/200	93
Manfrotto 290B/200	95
Soligor	40
Universal clamp	23
Car window mount	24
Shoulder pod	30
Cullmann hide clamp	55
Tripod case	13
Tripod straps, from	7
T-mounts, from	10
Lens cleaning kit	4

- **Viewing facilities**
- **Hours**
 Mon-Sat
 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch 1 to 2pm).
- **Location**
 Southern edge of Greater London. 15 minutes' drive from M25 (via the A3, then the Merton turn-off) or 2 minutes' walk from Morden Underground.
- **Parking**
 50 yards past our premises – 1st left.
- **Long-established workshop**
 Optical instrument experience unrivalled
- **Mail Order**
- **Personal Exports** including VAT claw-back
- **Interest-free short-term credit** (3 payments).
- **P/x arranged.**
- **Used items**
- **Package deals**
 Special prices are given in many cases where a combination of goods are bought.

E.&O.E.

Phone:
081-648 8822

Fax:
081-687 2021

VISA

Access

(D216)

KAY OPTICAL (1962), 89(B) London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5HP (1st Floor)

BIRDQUEST

FIRST CHOICE IN AFRICA

Yellow-headed Rockfowl



The African Experts - offering the finest, most wide-ranging programme of African birding tours and the smallest group size limit (10-12).

The Pioneers - exploring new areas across the continent in 1993 including the rainforests of Ivory Coast and Gabon, the endemic-rich islands of the Gulf of Guinea and the deserts, grasslands and mountains of interior South Africa.

The Leaders - finding Birdquesters the birds that others only dream about. Our latest Kenya group, for example, saw more East African specialities than any previous tour whilst setting a new British birding tour record of 751 species.

BIRDQUEST ... Smaller Groups, Better Birding!

For our brochure please contact us at:
Two Jays, Kemple End, Birdy Brow,
Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB6 9QY.
Tel: 0254-826317. Fax: 0254-826780.

D176

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

British Birds
VOLUME 85 NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 1992



Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland

Part 1. Numbers during 1986-90: seabirds to waders

P. A. Fraser and J. F. Ryan

As part of the process of maintaining the totals of species falling within the ambit of the British Birds Rarities Committee*, we have been collating records of certain 'sub-rarities'. The species studied include (a) those which were formerly included in the BBRC's annual reports, (b) those considered as 'scarce migrants' (Sharrock 1969-73), (c) a group of commoner (though still scarce) migrants, (d) scarce wintering birds, and (e) a group of wildfowl, the aetiology of whose records may well be a mixture of genuine vagrants, feral birds and escapes.

The primary reason for investigating such records is to ascertain whether any species need to be readmitted to the list considered by the BBRC. We have, however, also been looking at species which are unlikely to concern the BBRC in the near future, out of sheer interest. We have now collated the annual totals during 1986-90 for these species. This article is the preface to a series of papers which will study the records in more detail. The database

*The British Birds Rarities Committee is sponsored by *Carl Zeiss—Germany*

from which these totals have been calculated is almost complete for the period studied (although we still keenly await a few county reports for 1990).

We should like to emphasise that the totals in these papers have been generated from *published* records. Thus, the database contains no hearsay or undocumented records, being restricted to properly validated records which have been subjected to the scrutiny of the appropriate national, regional or county recording committees. We should like to take this opportunity to encourage submission of records of scarce migrants to the official county recorders. We hope that this will combat the trend where a higher percentage of records of species considered by the BBRC is submitted than of species considered only by county committees, due to the (perceived) increased kudos of finding national rarities. All records are useful.

Group 1. Seabirds

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*	92	53	65	1,260	2,206
Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*	237	323	429	291	873
Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*	482	4,385	2,646	2,403	3,427

The years 1989 and 1990 were the first in which more than 1,000 Cory's Shearwaters had been recorded since 1981. There must be some doubt surrounding the numbers of pelagic species recorded from land. It has sometimes been assumed that the sum total of birds seen over a period of days is the number of birds present (i.e. different birds are seen each day), something not assumed for landbirds. The recent record of what is assumed to be a single Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* off Porthgwarra, Cornwall, on three successive days (*Brit. Birds* 85: 510) helps to support the alternative theory: flocks of birds could be present offshore for several days, and be seen repeatedly as they pass and repass on a feeding circuit. If this is the case, some of our numbers may be grossly inflated.

Apart from 1986, Leach's Petrels have been seen in some numbers, those in the 'storm years' of 1987 and 1990 being significantly higher, though not dramatically so. We shall not be collating the records of Leach's Petrel from 1991.

Group 2. Herons and storks

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*	19	39	23	22	20
White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*	48	5	30	9	5
Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*	61	51	65	74	61

The Purple Heron seems to be consolidating the increase in records dating from the late 1960s, the mean annual total here being 25. This compares with previous five-year means of 18 (1981-85), 20 (1976-80) and 17 (1971-75). The same cannot be said for the White Stork. Yearly totals of records of this species are becoming increasingly variable. The year 1986 was the best ever, but three years out of five with fewer than ten records is worse than in recent

years. If we include 1985, another poor year, to have four years out of six with fewer than ten records shows a decline from the 1970s and early 1980s. Spoonbills arrive in this country with some consistency, though it is difficult to track them as they move around, especially in East Anglia. Although Spoonbills are seemingly easy to identify, observers should be aware of the possibility of escaped (or perhaps, sometimes, vagrant) African Spoonbills *Platalea alba.*

Group 3. Wildfowl

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*	41	36	31	112	212
Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*	30	61	93	58	69
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*	225	253	304	436	146
Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*	23	34	14	13	5

With the exception of the last species, we were surprised by the high numbers of records of these birds. This article is not the place for detailed analysis, but it is our subjective feeling that birdwatchers worried about whether they can 'tick' any of the first three species and going through the agonies of 'vagrants versus escapes' have a third problem: namely, that there appear to be large feral populations of all three species in Britain. The yearly variation in Snow Goose numbers is a reflection of recorders' predilection for publishing the records as well as birdwatchers' willingness to submit them. It seems that only ringing recoveries will reveal for certain that a species is prone to vagrancy. Ferruginous Ducks occur in much lower numbers than the other three species of wildfowl listed. There is no evidence of any feral population here, and the records may well reflect a mixture of wild and escaped birds. Attention should be drawn to the possibility of hybrid *Aythya* ducks resembling Ferruginous Ducks: meticulous notes should always be made when a suspected Ferruginous Duck is under observation.

Group 4. Birds of prey

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*	44	36	67	92	47
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*	72	88	99	97	62
Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*	29	32	86	47	20
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	186	195	333	275	314

Note that the totals for Osprey exclude those from breeding areas in Scotland. It is impossible to allow for individuals moving between counties, so the figures may be artificially high. Given the current low ebb of the first two as breeding species in the UK, with about ten pairs of Honey Buzzards and six pairs of Montagu's Harriers (Spencer *et al.* 1990), it appears that these records may include Continental migrants, as well as wandering individuals summering in the UK. Although these figures cover a calendar year, it can be seen that there was a peak in Rough-legged Buzzards in 1988/89. The peak arrival time of Rough-legged Buzzards is in late October and November (Sharrock 1969-73).

Group 5. Rails and Crane

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*	48	74	84	78	39
Corncrake *Crex crex*	35	49	57	43	35
Crane *Grus grus*	27	48	51	43	36

All records of Spotted Crake have been included as it is so difficult to establish proof of breeding. The totals give us at least some idea of the numbers recorded. We have, however, omitted records of Corncrake from known breeding areas, even if this has meant not counting some non-breeding birds. The migrant totals do not show any decrease over the period, despite the drastic reduction in breeding numbers (if the number of singing birds is an accurate reflection of the level of breeding) over the last ten years (T. Stowe *in litt.*). The numbers of Cranes have been unexceptional throughout this five-year period, without the peaks seen in 1982 and 1985 (Dymond *et al.* 1988).

Group 6. Waders

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*	19	19	26	14	15
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*	30	21	34	26	26
Dotterel *C. morinellus*	314	598	364	273	215
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*	87	178	99	113	59
Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos*	45	69	95	71	42
Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*	17	6	12	24	15
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*	37	34	28	45	30
Grey Phalarope *P. fulicarius*	104	484	502	514	437

The figures for Stone-curlew represent only those seen away from breeding areas and confirm that the species is very rarely encountered on migration. Kentish Plover is very much a scarce migrant, and Red-necked Phalarope may well be approaching this status, although the residual breeding population looks to have stabilised after its recent decline. Dotterels are not as uncommon as many people, whose annual 'year tick' takes place on the golf course on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, may think (the figures exclude any records from breeding areas in mainland Scotland). Temminck's Stint had a record year in 1987, and the five-year mean over the period was 107 per year. This compares with 92 in both 1981-85 and 1976-80 and 73 in 1971-75. There were no exceptional years for Pectoral Sandpiper, but, on the down side, two of the five years during this period (1986 and 1990) saw less than 50 reported. The year 1986 saw the lowest total since 1978 (43), when a huge area of high pressure remained firmly rooted over the UK for the whole of September. Similarly, 1987 saw the smallest number of records of Buff-breasted Sandpiper (six) since the four recorded in 1972. The five-year mean over this period was 15 per year, compared with 27 (1981-85), 33 (1976-80) and 22 (1971-75). It is to be hoped that the reduced numbers seen on this side of the Atlantic Ocean are due to meteorological conditions rather than a decline in the status of this delightful bird in North America. Grey Phalaropes are some ten times more frequently recorded than Red-necked Phalaropes and, with the exception of 1986, occurred in broadly similar numbers in each of the years in this period.

Future plans

Totals of the remaining species (gulls, near-passerines and passerines) will be published in part 2 of this series of articles. Subsequently, the patterns of records will be examined in detail for each group in rotation, so that the changing fortunes of each species can be monitored constantly.

Acknowledgments

We should like to thank all the hundreds of fellow observers who submitted their records, and the national, regional and county recorders and report editors whose labours enabled us to collate the information for the whole of Britain and Ireland.

References

DYMOND, J. N., FRASER, P. A., & GANTLETT, S. J. M. 1988. *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland.* Calton.

SHARROCK, J. T. R. 1969-73. Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland during 1958-67. *Brit. Birds* 62: 169-189, 300-315; 63: 6-23, 313-324; 64: 93-113, 302-309; 65: 187-202, 381-392; 66: 46-64, 517-525.

SPENCER, R., & THE RARE BREEDING BIRDS PANEL. 1990. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1988. *Brit. Birds* 83: 353-390.

P. A. Fraser, 12 Redland Court Road, Bristol BS6 7EQ
Dr J. F. Ryan, 3 Alverton Cottage Gardens, Alverton Road, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4TG



ICBP news

Menderes Delta This June, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, opened an information centre at the Menderes Delta, one of the most important sites for birds in Turkey. A 13,000-ha wetland at the mouth of the River Menderes on the western coast of Turkey, the delta is host to a wide range of bird species, including a colony of approximately 60 Dalmatian Pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*. Adjacent to the delta is Bafa Lake, another Important Bird Area, with breeding Pygmy Cormorants *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni*.

The information centre has been set up as part of a conservation project run by Doğal Hayati Koruma Derneği (DHKD), the Turkish nature protection society, and is designed to increase awareness of the delta and ecotourism in the area.

Problems for these critical sites include a drop in the water level in Bafa Lake following construction of a dyke, and considerable disturbance from hunters and fishermen. The DHKD is lobbying for both the lake and the delta to be included in the already existing Dilek National Park situated to the north of the delta, and is also pressing for the development and implementation of a hydrological management plan for the whole river basin. GEORGINA GREEN

International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ



Seasonal reports

Spring 1992

Barry Nightingale and Keith Allsopp

A mild and changeable March, with little sunshine, was followed by a rather cloudy April, but with temperatures mostly 1°C above average. Northern Britain again had rainfall on or above par, but it was rather dry in eastern England. In contrast, May was sunnier than average everywhere, in some parts the warmest May of the century. Rainfall was variable, caused partly by the localised storms during the last week. June was the warmest since 1976, and over most parts was sunnier and drier than average.

Some unchecked reports are included, as well as authenticated records

A superlative spring

Headlines in the ornithological press and reports that we have received have already proclaimed their verdicts on the 1992 spring: 'Extremely busy and exciting', 'Migrants in force', 'Best-ever spring passage' and 'Falcons flood in'. No justification for these commentaries is necessary other than to consider the impressive list of rarities (with four or perhaps five potential additions to the British List) and scarce migrants which occurred: **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens*, **Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata*, **Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus*, **Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica* (plate 297), **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*, **Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda*, **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (plate 299), **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*, possibly up to 17 **Cattle Egrets** *Bubulcus ibis* (plate 293), **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*, **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*, **Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*, **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* (plate 295), two **Collared Flycatchers** *Ficedula albicollis*, **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* and **Siberian Thrush** *Zoothera sibirica*. Multiple arrivals involved three **Booted Warblers** *Hippolais caligata* (plate 294), about 150 **Red-footed Falcons** *Falco vespertinus*, 40 **Red-throated Pipits** *Anthus cervinus*, 16 **Greenish Warblers** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, 175 **Icterine Warblers** *H. icterina*, 65 **Marsh Warblers** *Acrocephalus palustris*, 80 **Hoopoes** *Upupa epops*, four **Sardinian Warblers** *S. melanocephala*, 22 **Subalpine Warblers** *S. cantillans*, at least 12 **Black-headed Buntings** *Emberiza melanocephala*, and countless **Red-backed Shrikes** *Lanius collurio*, with up to 90 on Fair Isle alone, and **Scarlet Rosefinches** *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

Spring seems to get earlier and earlier. Indeed, we must go back to February for the first spring migrants, with **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* and **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* both in Dorset on 27th. Perhaps less expected as a front runner was an **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* over Wychwood Forest (Oxfordshire), and a very speedy **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* which had made it to Staveley (North Yorkshire) by 1st March, that county's earliest ever. By the next day, several reports of Sand Martins were received from the south coast of

[*Brit. Birds* 85: 636-647, December 1992]

England, including Dungeness (Kent) and Radipole (Dorset), and by 7th March inland Kent, the West Midlands and Bedfordshire. Reports of more **Wheatears** were coming in by 1st March, from Hampshire, Guernsey and Bedfordshire. With winds from the southwest and temperatures generally mild in the southerly half of Britain, more migrants arrived. A **Garganey** *Anas querquedula* at Elmley (Kent) on 3rd was followed by reports of five others during March, and an early **Hoopoe** in Exeter (Devon) on 5th preceded six others elsewhere. A **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* at Ferrybridge (Dorset) on 6th was early, as was an **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* at New Brighton (Merseyside) on the same day. By 8th March **Stone-curlews** *Burhinus oedicnemus* had returned to the Brecks (Norfolk/Suffolk) and **Little Ringed Plovers** *Charadrius dubius* were reported from Surrey and the West Midlands; less typical on this day were a **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* in Cornwall and **Tree Pipits** *Anthus trivialis* in Haldon Forest (Devon). The earliest **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* brought to our attention was on 11th March at Radipole, the same day as a **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* on Skomer (Dyfed), with the first **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* on 12th March at Portland Bill (Dorset). Inland movements of **Kittiwakes** *Rissa tridactyla* are now a regular spring feature, and 23 passed through Holmethorpe (Surrey) on 13th March followed by a small, but steady passage through the London area and the midland counties of England, lasting until 24th March, with the largest count of 71 at Belvide Reservoir (Staffordshire) on 15th. A **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* at Abberton Reservoir (Essex) on 14th March was followed by others on Tresco (Isles of Scilly) on 19th and Hampstead Heath (Greater London) on 25th March.

Duplicating the remarkable March influx of **Alpine Swifts** in 1991 came seven more this year, during 18th-20th, including five together over Killiney (Co. Dublin) on 20th.

By mid March, **Ring Ouzels** *Turdus torquatus* were back in Derbyshire, but inland passage was noted right through into April. A **Cattle Egret** in Poole Harbour (Dorset) on 19th March was a highlight for some, but gave no indication of what was to come from this erratic wanderer. Setting more of a pattern, dare we say it, is our resident population of **Little Egrets** *Egretta garzetta*, with around 30 reported, mainly from the western half of Britain, but with five along the English south coast.

The first big arrival of **Wheatears** appeared in mild southwesterlies during 20th-24th March, but a **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* at South Norwood (Greater London) on 23rd March was very much a loner. Five days of cold northerly winds put a halt to further passerine movements from the south, but seabirds were returning earlier than is usual, with 5,000 **Puffins** *Fratercula arctica* back on Skomer by 28th. The next day, a **Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle* off Bexhill was the first for Sussex since 1969. During 30th and 31st, a deep low covered southern England and, with strong easterly winds over the northern half of the country, the first fall of the spring occurred, on North Ronaldsay (Orkney) and Fair Isle (Shetland). This involved a mixture of **thrushes** *Turdus*, **Black Redstarts** *Phoenicurus ochruros*, **Blackcaps** *Sylvia atricapilla* and **Chiffchaffs** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

Cold northeasterly winds covered Britain for the first three days of April, not stopping an **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* appearing at Staines Reservoir (Surrey) on 2nd, but perhaps encouraging the **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* to linger at Benacre (Suffolk) until 12th April. **Ospreys** were arriving in some force, about 40 in all this month, mainly during 2nd-6th and 11th-16th April. On 3rd April, 112 **Corn Buntings** *Miliaria calandra* were unusual at Kedington (Suffolk) and there were 55 at Gibraltar Point (Lincolnshire). On the same day, a very early **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia* was in Derbyshire, and a **Serin** *Serinus serinus* at Portland was the first of about 15 to be reported during April. On 4th, a visible migration of **Meadow Pipits** *Anthus pratensis*, about 400 per hour, was noted over Billinge (Merseyside), and even more obvious were **Hoopoes**, at Montrose (Tayside) and Welland (Worcestershire), the first of many. An adult **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* appeared at Lackford (Suffolk) on 5th—the fourth record of this species at this site since 1987, perhaps all relating to the same individual—and it stayed on and off, apart from a brief foray into Buckinghamshire and over Bedfordshire, until 18th April.



Heavy rain fell in Wales and southern England on 6th and 7th April, but a rise in pressure brought a spell of warm sunny weather which lasted until 11th April. This brought in the first **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*, to Bath (Avon) on 8th, although the main numbers of this typically late migrant arrived even later than usual this year. A **Stone-curlew** in a flock of Woodpigeons *Columba palumbus* must have been a remarkable sight over Dagenham Chase (Essex) on 8th; another was found at Braunton (Devon) on 11th, and a third on playing-fields at Dulwich (Greater London) on 21st April. **Red-throated Divers** *Gavia stellata* in Largo Bay (Fife) had increased to 170 by 10th April, and a northerly movement on 18th provided much excitement for local birdwatchers at Scotsmans Flash (Greater Manchester) when 16 passed through quickly, and there were 185 at Bowness-on-Solway (Cumbria). Departing **Fieldfares** *Turdus pilaris* passed through southeast Scotland on 11th April, with 550 at Westruther and 3,600 at Hule Moss, and also Leicestershire on 12th, with 250 at Holwell.

The first **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* appeared on 11th April, in Derbyshire, and then on three London reservoirs the next day. **Cuckoos** *Cuculus canorus* appeared, or at least were heard, at Cubbington (Warwickshire) and in Avon, also on 11th. The first **Swift** *Apus apus* was at Portland on 12th, a day when cooler, showery westerlies covered the whole country, bringing in quite a rush of migrants. **Redstarts** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* appeared on Dagenham Chase and in the New Forest (Hampshire), **Garden Warblers** *Sylvia borin* at South Norwood, and the start of a good passage of **Pied Flycatchers** *Ficedula hypoleuca* was evident throughout southern England, lasting until 28th April.

Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* appeared in good numbers, 54 at Kinneil (Lothian) on 13th April being a good local record, and 60 were at Anthorn (Cumbria) in mid-month. Also causing a flurry of local excitement was a **Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca* on Guernsey on 14th April, but as it prolonged its stay into June so the chances of its being an escape grew and interest waned. The 16th April saw the first **Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*, at Needs Oar (Hampshire), and progressively good numbers of **Ring Ouzels** appeared at traditional inland stop-overs; there were ten on Blows Downs (Bedfordshire) on 21st April.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia* at Plymouth Hoe (Devon) on 14th April was joined by another the next day, staying until May, whilst a third individual appeared at Swanpool (Cornwall) on 22nd April. Meanwhile, **Iceland Gulls** *Larus glaucoides* seemed reluctant to depart, with reports of over 21 in April, along with 13 **Glaucous Gulls** *L. hyperboreus*. A **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis* past St Abbs (Borders) on 15th April was unexpected, whilst the next day saw **Little Terns** *Sterna albifrons* returning to Hayling Island (Hampshire). Urged on by the warmer westerlies which covered the southern half of Britain from 16th-17th April came **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* to Gibraltar Point, the first **Whitethroats** *Sylvia communis*, with 20 at Titchfield Haven (Hampshire), and **Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* to Dorset.

One of the features of recent springs has been the passage of **Pomarine Skuas** *Stercorarius pomarinus* past Bowness-on-Solway: 283 were noted during 17th-30th April, with a peak of 92 on 26th, and 299 were to pass during 1st-15th May, with 77 on 1st being the best day. By 19th April, **Grey Plovers** *Pluvialis squatarola* were reaching good numbers, with 565 at Gibraltar Point and 1,083 on the River Stour (Suffolk). Nearby, 725 **Black-tailed Godwits** were counted along the River Blyth.

Warm westerlies had covered much of the country from 16th April, but on 20th the wind veered to the southeast and with it came visitors en masse, including large numbers of **hirundines** and **Swifts**. **Avocets** arrived in force, with 28 on Hayling Island, 30 past Selsey Bill (West Sussex) and 15 at Church Wilne (Derbyshire). **Wood Warblers** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* were fresh in, at Sandwich Bay (Kent) on 20th and Blows Downs on 21st, and seven **Corn Buntings** settled in Scilly, a rare event indeed. The favourable weather conditions coincided with the Easter holiday and increased observer coverage, and as a result came several interesting discoveries. A **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*, **Richard's Pipit**, **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*, **Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata* and **Short-toed Lark**

293. Eight Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis*, Lynster's Farm, West Hyde, Maple Cross, Hertfordshire, May 1992 (*S. J. Carter*)

294. Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*, Spurn, Humberside, June 1992 (*Steve Young/'Birdwatch'*)

295. White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*, Felixstowe, Suffolk, June 1992 (*Tim Loseby/Avian Photos*)

The inclusion of plates 293-295 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.









Calandrella brachydactyla were all found in Scilly, two **Greenish Warblers**, another **Little Bittern**, a **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* and a **Subalpine Warbler** in Ireland, a **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* in Derbyshire, only their second, and the first **Dotterels** *Charadrius morinellus* of spring, with two in Scilly and one on the Isle of Wight, and there were other **Tawny Pipits** elsewhere, including one at Titchfield Haven. By 20th April, eight **Hoopoes** had been reported, but 13 more on 21st signalled a dramatic rush, and by the month end about 50 had appeared, with a distinct concentration of records coming from southwest England and Ireland. **Whinchats** *Saxicola rubetra* were first evident on 22nd April, with 19 on Farlington Marsh (Hampshire), whilst a **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* at Lough Beg (Co. Londonderry) might have been a recent transatlantic traveller, aided by the southwesterlies that had preceded its arrival. The 72 **Ruffs** *Philomachus pugnax* on Trimley Marshes (Suffolk) and ten **Ring Ouzels** on Fair Isle on 23rd were overshadowed by the arrival of seven **Alpine Swifts** during 22nd-26th. **Avocets** reached a maximum of 226 on Havergate (Suffolk) on 24th, and **Kittiwakes**, heading north, included 7,700 passing Eyemouth (Borders) in 30 minutes. **Whimbrels** showed well during 24th-26th, with a steady passage through the London area, 41 on Beaulieu Estuary (Hampshire), 60 at Durleston (Dorset), 107 at Kenfig NNR (Mid Glamorgan), 100 on Parrett Estuary (Somerset) and 43 at Gibraltar Point. These numbers were totally eclipsed, however, by 1,000 which passed over Mounts Bay (Cornwall) on 25th.

An early **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* was at Little Marlow (Buckinghamshire) on 24th April, and 111 **Yellow Wagtails** dropped down at Swalecliffe (Kent) on 25th, the day not one but two **Black-eared Wheatears** *Oenanthe hispanica* appeared, at Keyhaven (Hampshire) and at Chearsley (Buckinghamshire) (plate 296). Remarkably, on the next day, and less than 25 km away, at Radley (Oxfordshire), a **Pied-billed Grebe** was found (plate 299). Who said inland birdwatching was dull?

Two **Woodchat Shrikes** *Lanius senator* also arrived on 26th April, at Auchencairn (Dumfries & Galloway) and Porthmellon (Cornwall), and the month closed with **Ortolan Buntings** *Emberiza hortulana* at Landguard (Suffolk) and Fair Isle, an **Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni* also there, three **Dotterels** over Staines Reservoir and a **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* at Minsmere (Suffolk). From 25th April the combined presence of an anticyclone to the west of Spain, until the end of the month, and a deep depression just to the south of Iceland brought a strong southwest airstream throughout the whole area. A small influx of **Cattle Egrets** into Northern France during this period, and at least five into Belgium gave a hint of what was to come our way.

Cattle Egrets and other rarities . . .

Dotterel reports included ten at Swinefleet (Humberside) on 1st May, 14 at Tormarton (Avon) on 8th, and 19 at Deeping St Nicholas (Lincolnshire) on 10th. Six more **Hoopoes** included one at Marton Mere (Lancashire) on

296. Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, April 1992 (*Michael S. Wallen*)



The inclusion of plates 297-299 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.



297. Above, Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*, Fair Isle, Shetland, July 1992 (*Dennis Coutts*)



298. Right, Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata*, Ronas Voe, Mainland, Shetland, June 1992 (*Dennis Coutts*)

299. Below, Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*, Radley Gravel-pits, Oxfordshire, April 1992 (*David Tipling/Avian Photos*)



4th, the same day as a **Short-toed Lark** on Blakeney Point (Norfolk). It was, however, a long-awaited **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens* at Portland on 2nd that grabbed the attention, though it was soon to move on, to the disappointment of a large, hopeful audience on 3rd.

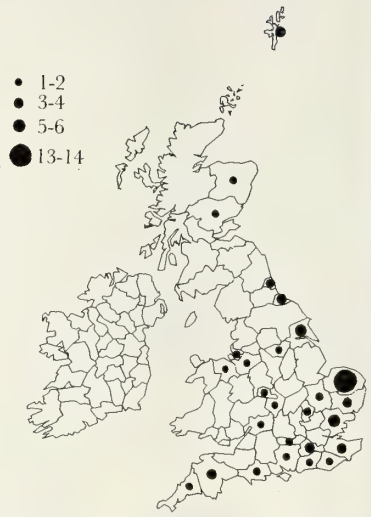
A **Cattle Egret** at Aberdaron (Gwynedd) was followed by three more at Ousden (Suffolk) and eight at Maple Cross (Hertfordshire), which stayed until 4th May (plate 293). Subsequently, two were in Humberside, one at Stodmarsh (Kent), up to five in the Welney area (Norfolk), and four in Lincolnshire. Possibly up to 17 individuals were involved. Three **Glossy Ibises** *Plegadis falcinellus*, in Cleveland, Norfolk and Suffolk, were new on 5th-6th, as were six **Alpine Swifts** during 2nd-7th. Up to ten **Little Egrets** along the east coast of England also suggested new arrivals, and eight **Purple Herons** *Ardea purpurea* were spread between North Ronaldsay (Orkney) and the Axe Estuary (Devon). Reports of four **White Storks** *Ciconia ciconia* and up to 30 **Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* completed the set. A **Dark-eyed Junco** in Hamilton (Strathclyde) on 3rd was a surprise find, as were five reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs** during the month.

Temminck's Stints in strength

Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii* came through in numbers, mostly after 12th May, and totalled around 70. Mainly scattered throughout the southern half of England, six reached Lancashire and three Shetland (see map 1). **Purple Sandpipers** *C. maritima* reached 365 on North Ronaldsay on 4th, and there was a small but steady passage of **Sanderlings** *C. alba* through the midland counties of England during 5th-18th. A **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* at Loch Rannoch (Tayside) on 6th stayed until 21st May.

A high-pressure area developed quickly over southern Denmark on 4th May, bringing a brief spell of easterly winds to Britain. Neither the resulting **Collared Flycatcher**, at Wolves Wood (Suffolk), nor the **Black-eared Wheatear**, on Bardsey (Gwynedd), which appeared in this period, stayed in the following unsettled weather. More obliging, however, were three **Subalpine Warblers** during 6th-9th.

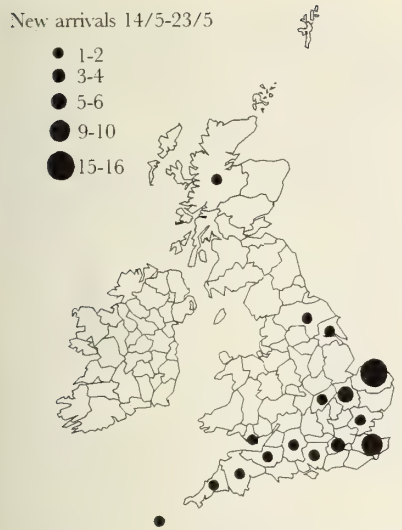
A change in the weather pattern had begun on 12th May, as pressure began rising over the near Continent to the southeast, bringing warm, sunny weather to most of Britain. On 14th in particular, ground temperatures from Kent to the north of Scotland were about 26°C. More importantly, a very warm pulse of warm air aloft, over 20°C at 1,000 feet, arrived on 40-knot winds from the south. The anticyclone drifted north and became established over Scandinavia by 19th, producing a strong westerly warm air flow in the lower atmosphere of 20 to 30 knots across northern Germany. It was near-classic conditions for drift migrants reaching Britain instead of Scandinavia and southeastern Europe.

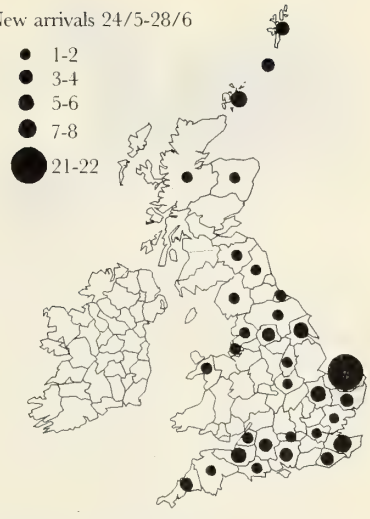


Map 1. Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii* in spring 1992

A profusion of falcons

Since 1958, there has been an average of 11 **Red-footed Falcons** in Britain each year. Up to 15 arrived on 14th May alone, and by 28th June around 149 had been reported; allowing for some duplication, this easily surpasses the previous best year of 1973, when there were about 40. Unlike that year, when spring females outnumbered males, the split this spring was about equal, with 75 males, 70 females and four undefined. Again in contrast to 1973, when most females arrived earlier than males, both sexes arrived at about the same rate, with 50% of each reported by 28th May. In the first rush, from 14th to 23rd May, sightings were concentrated in the southeastern corner of England (see map 2), with 16 in Norfolk, ten in Kent, five in Cambridgeshire, few in the southwest and only three north of the Humber. Few of these early birds lingered. Of the new arrivals, between 24th May and 28th June, many became loyal to one site, and, although the South Coast was again





Maps 2 & 3. Red-footed Falcons *Falco vespertinus* in spring 1992

favoured, there was a marked shift to the west and north (see map 3). Some of these, of course, may well have been earlier arrivals filtering through the country. It was significant that 32 reports were from north of the Humber in this second wave, with 12 of these in the Northern Isles. Although there were 'new' reports every day (except on seven) between 14th May and 28th June, there were two distinct peaks: the first during 14th-17th May with 32, and the second during 28th-30th May with 24.

High numbers of Red-footed Falcons were also reported from the western Mediterranean and Spain during May. Although this species has a strong southwest-to-northeast bias across Europe during its spring exodus from Africa, it seems that conditions moved the main concentration even farther west than is usual. This shift in the normal pattern must have continued right up into Northern Europe, with the high-pressure area over western Russia forcing the main stream westward. Thus, countries to the immediate east and southeast of southeast England reported very high numbers during May: Belgium, the Netherlands, and particularly Denmark, where up to 600 were recorded between 14th May and 11th June. It is clear that those which reached our shores did so from that direction, rather than the south, and this of course is borne out by the distribution maps.

Orioles and other jewels

The 14th May was notable not just for those delightful falcons. With fine, anticyclonic weather, and with the temperatures above normal, conditions were right for south European species to overshoot. It was these conditions that led to the high numbers of **Hoopoes** at the end of April, and now it was the turn of **Golden Orioles** *Oriolus oriolus*. About 100 poured in during the second half of May, with the first concentrations in the southwest, including up to 12 daily in Scilly, and along the English south coast. The second surge, from 21st May, had a more northerly bias and we can expect these to have arrived from the east rather than from the south. This is supported perhaps by the arrival of other species normally associated with northeastern Europe. Seven **Red-throated Pipits** came on 14th, with about 40 by the end of May, and, of these, nine, and possibly 12, were seen on Fair Isle, with the majority of others in British eastern coastal counties. In parallel came an influx of **Yellow Wagtails** of the grey-headed race *M. flava thunbergi*, which breeds from central and northern Fennoscandia eastwards. Up to ten were at Cley (Norfolk) on 14th and 20 at Happisburgh (Norfolk) on 15th, with seven on Fair Isle on 29th May. Single **Icterine Warblers** at Flamborough Head (Humberside) and Blakeney Point on 14th, were the first of a mini-invasion later in the month, and there was the first of three **Black-headed Buntings**. Seven **Woodchat Shrikes** arrived during 14th-16th and 17 **Bee-eaters** *Merops apiaster* during 14th-26th May.

Curiously, the common migrants did not

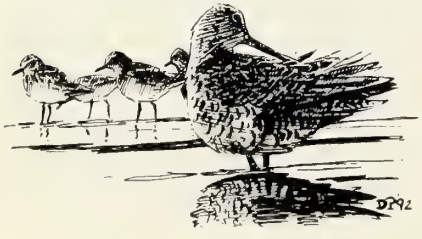


figure in unusual numbers, with 200 **Turtle Doves** at Sandwich Bay on 15th May and 400 **Black Terns** *Chlidonias niger*, at various Midland sites during 14th-25th, the exceptions. Briefly diverting the focus away from the north and east came two rarities to Cornwall: **Squacco Heron** at Towednack and **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* at Marazion, both on 15th. A **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* in Devon on 17th, and then one at Chew Valley Lake, Avon's first, on 18th, preceded nine widely scattered **Red-rumped Swallows** during 19th-31st and eight **Subalpine Warblers** during 20th-28th May.

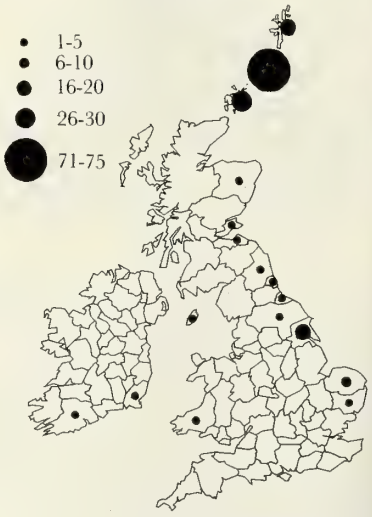
. . . and more rarities

Few inland **Arctic Terns** *Sterna paradisaea* had been reported, although there was a small movement noted on 16th May, but, in sharp contrast, 17 **White-winged Black Terns** *Chlidonias leucopterus* during 18th-19th surpassed the previous best spring total.

Long-tailed Skuas *Stercorarius longicaudus* appeared past Bowness-on-Solway, with eight during 6th-15th May, and a single past Minsmere on 21st was the first spring record for Suffolk. The same day saw a **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* at Sidlesham Ferry (West Sussex), and on 23rd an **Alpine Accentor** at Walberswick (Suffolk), which was overshadowed by the excitement elsewhere, as was a **Greater Yellowlegs** on 24th on the Ouse Washes (Cambridgeshire) and a **Collared Flycatcher** on St Kilda (Western Isles). Much more accessible was a **Spectacled Warbler**—surely now to end its on-off appearance on the British list—by performing to respectful ranks of observers during 24th-29th May, at Filey (North Yorkshire).



By now, **Scarlet Rosefinches** were hitting the East Coast in force, and in particular the Northern Isles, in an unprecedented spring influx (see map 5). **Red-breasted Flycatchers** *Ficedula parva*, too, featured strongly, with nine during 25th-31st May, but were totally eclipsed by a massive fall of **Spotted Flycatchers**, with 400 on North Ronaldsay, 350 on Fair Isle and 70 on Sanday (Orkney), all on 27th.



Map 4. Icterine Warblers *Hippolais icterina* in spring 1992

Red-backed Shrikes were also much in evidence, with about 120 being reported in the latter half of May, again mostly from the Northern Isles. The peak day was 27th, with 20 on Fair Isle and 12 on North Ronaldsay, and those two islands also attracted a sizable proportion of the 100 or so **Icterine Warblers** that were reported in the last week of May (see map 4). Nine **Marsh Warblers** and 35 **Bluethroats** also used Fair Isle as a stop-over during the month, with about 40 of the latter elsewhere. Many of these were of the nominate red-spotted form, the race that breeds in eastern Europe and northern Scandinavia, and this also suggests the intended destination of most of the migrants that were arriving on our northern and eastern coasts.

A **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*, a **Sardinian Warbler** and the only **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* of the period, all during 25th-27th May on North Ronaldsay, added to that locality's growing reputation. Nearby Sanday produced a **Greenish Warbler** on 28th, and there were five others

reported elsewhere during 28th-31st May. All these species would have been travelling in a northwesterly direction away from their Asian wintering areas and in the prevailing warm easterlies overshot their normal destination in classic style. Considering the numbers and origin of the species involved, it is surprising that there was only one **Thrush Nightingale**. On the other hand, two **Red-headed Buntings** *Emberiza bruniceps* that arrived in this period, in Bedfordshire and more particularly at Spurn (Humberside), will never arrive in such solid circumstances or with better travelling companions to support claims of genuine vagrancy.

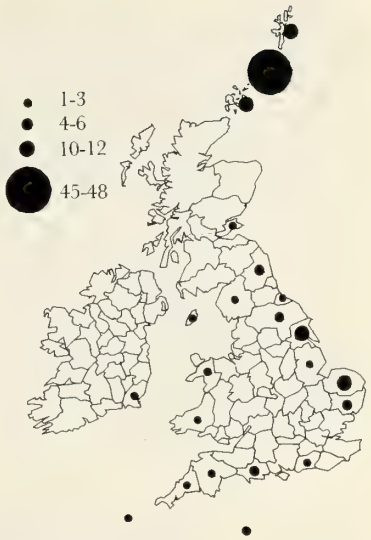
Apart from these rarities, there were other interesting local records almost in danger of going unnoticed. A steady inland trickle of **Common Scoters** *Melanitta nigra* included 31 through the West Midlands during 29th-31st May and 21 at Barn Elms Reservoir (Surrey) on 30th. A **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* on South Walney on 28th was the first in Cumbria since 1985, whilst one in Co. Kerry on 28th was the first in Ireland for 20 years.

Strangely, after all the emphasis in the north and northeast over the last half of May, it was southern England that stole the attention on the last day of a dramatic and unforgettable month. A **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* at Portland Bill, a **White-throated Sparrow** at Fagbury Cliff (Suffolk) (plate 295) and a **Lesser Kestrel** over Hampstead Heath were a breathtaking trio. Is it coincidence that the best year for this latter species, when there were three, was 1973, the last big Red-footed Falcon year?

. . . and it goes on

The frenzy continued into June and, whilst there were many lingerers from the falls in the last week of May, there was much evidence of fresh arrivals, including a **Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* at Hook Head (Co. Wexford) on 1st. With high pressure still over northern Scandinavia and warm temperatures across northern Europe, conditions were still favourable for migrants to reach us from the northeast, and make their landfalls in northern Britain. We received reports of 85 **Red-backed Shrikes** for June, 20 of which were on Fair Isle.

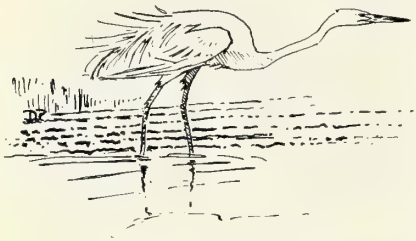
A **Sardinian Warbler** in Surbiton (Greater London) on 2nd June was quite amazing and our first inland record, and other good inland reports included a **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* in Nottinghamshire on 4th and **Night Herons** *Nycticorax nycticorax* at Chew Valley Lake and Hatton Cross (Greater London) on 9th. A **Little Ringed Plover** in Belfast harbour (Co. Down) on 2nd-3rd June was a rare visitor for Ireland.



Map 5. Scarlet Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus* in spring 1992

The crowds visiting Fagbury for the White-throated Sparrow found, in sequence, a **Black-headed Bunting** on 4th June, a **Red-fronted Serin**—an intriguing possible addition to the British List—on 6th, and a **Greenish Warbler** on 7th. During 5th-9th, many new overshooting migrants were occurring elsewhere. Over 75 more **Icterine Warblers**, 55 **Marsh Warblers**, seven more **Greenish Warblers** and a total of eight **Black-headed Buntings** were reported. Of the 75 or so **Scarlet Rosefinches**, many were singing, and included, on 21st, the first for Guernsey (see map 5). An overdue **Thrush Nightingale** was trapped on Fair Isle on 5th, and on 7th a **Booted Warbler** on Hartlepool Headland (Cleveland) was Britain's first spring record. There were to be others, at Spurn on 11th-22nd (plate 294) and at South Walney on 17th. A **Marmora's Warbler** at Spurn on 8th June was followed by a **Paddyfield Warbler**, **Stone-curlew** and **Great Reed Warbler** on Fair Isle on 9th. Many of these species were also making headlines in countries to the east of Britain, including a **Paddyfield Warbler** in Denmark on 4th June, and five **Booted Warblers** in Finland.

From even farther afield came a truly Asiatic vagrant when a female **Siberian Thrush** at Barns Ness showed itself to two lucky observers on 10th June: Britain's first spring record. A **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* over Bath on 13th, sandwiched between **Great White Egrets** on Ythan Estuary (Grampian) on 11th and Breydon (Norfolk) on 14th, was surprisingly the only one of the spring, considering the bumper year in 1991.



The band of strong easterlies which had stretched from eastern Europe since 24th May persisted until 12th June, when the Scandinavian high declined. A new but more-familiar pattern, with high-pressure centres to the south and west, steered in Atlantic air from the west and north, and, although this spring period had one or two more surprises up its sleeve, activity generally quietened down. The origins of a **Japanese Grosbeak** *Eophona personata* at Ronas Voe (Shetland) on 14th (plate 298) will be much debated (especially following the two in Norway, in June 1989 and April 1990, *Brit. Birds* 85: 461, and one in Sweden in May 1990, *Vår Fågelv.* 50(8): 28), but a **Roller** *Coracias garrulus* at Monkton (Kent) on 15th was a more typical midsummer record. A **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* over Weybourne (Norfolk) on 16th was a remarkable 'garden list tick' for its amazed observer.

Finally, this memorable period of migration came to an end, with a flourish in the last few days: a **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* at Teesside (Cleveland) on 26th June, a scattering of **Red-necked Phalaropes** *Phalaropus lobatus*, and another **Roller**, at North Walney NR (Cumbria) on 27th, and a **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* at Needs Oar Point on 28th. Potentially Britain's first, a **Brown Flycatcher** trapped on Fair Isle on 1st-2nd July (plate 297) was a fitting climax to a fabulous spring.

Breeding records broken, too

During the period discussed here, birds are not just on the move, they are also intent on breeding. It is not altogether surprising, therefore, that, of the influx species, **Red-backed Shrikes** bred in Suffolk, raising four young, and **Scarlet Rosefinches** established a long-awaited foothold. In Suffolk, they bred in two localities, and an adult with a brood patch was trapped at a third, whilst near Flamborough three pairs were confirmed breeding, a further two pairs probably did, and individuals were seen at seven additional sites (*Bird Watching* September 1992, pages 84-85).

Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* bred in Norfolk, the returning **Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis* reared one hybrid young on the Farne Islands, **Eiders** *Somateria mollissima* bred for the first time on the Calf of Man, **Curlews** *Numenius arquata* for the first time in Bedfordshire, **Ravens** *Corvus corax* in Derbyshire for the first time in 24 years, and **Egyptian Geese** *Alopochen aegyptiacus* in Hertfordshire. **Jackdaws** *C. monedula* summered in Scilly for the first time and **Woodlarks** *Lullula arborea* raised record numbers of young in Thetford Forest (Norfolk), showing an increase of 33% over 1991. One **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* and 14 **Whooper Swans** *C. cygnus* summered in the north of Ireland, and Whoopers bred there for the first time, one pair raising one cygnet.

On the other hand, early indications were that numbers of **Yellow Wagtails**, **Grasshopper** and **Willow Warblers** were down. Raptors had a mixed season, although mostly good, with **Red Kites** *Milvus milvus* raising 93 young in Wales, and, from the release programme, nine chicks in England and one in Scotland. **Merlins** *Falco columbarius* in Orkney had their best season for a long time, with at least 35 young, but **Hen Harriers** *Circus cyaneus* their worst season since 1979, perhaps owing to the poor weather in the pre-egg-laying period.



Generally, seabirds in the Northern Isles did well, but **Arctic Terns** had mixed fortunes. Colonies on Papa Westray raised 1,600 young, but the colonies in the southern isles in Orkney raised virtually none.

Finally, and perhaps for the first time, **House Sparrows** *Passer domesticus* get a mention in 'Seasonal reports'. Three on Skomer during the summer made their first breeding attempt on that island for over 30 years, a sobering note on which to end after this rarity-ridden summary.

Acknowledgments

This summary was compiled from contributions from: C. Darbyshire, I. Kinley, F. J. Lambert, A. McGeehan, E. R. Meek, C. Murphy, P. Murphy, A. Perry, M. J. Rogers, M. Wallen; and published information including that in the newsletters of the Bedfordshire Bird Club, Bristol Ornithological Club, Buckinghamshire Bird Club, Derbyshire Ornithological Society, Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society, Fife Bird Club, Hampshire Ornithological Society, La Société Guernesiaise, Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, Leigh Ornithological Society, London Natural History Society, South East Scotland Bird Bulletin, Sussex Ornithological Society, West Midland Bird Club, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory.

We are especially grateful to Rare Bird News, which supplied copies of all the records reported to its phone service, and to Birding South West.

Barry Nightingale & Keith Allsopp, 7 Bloomsbury Close, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QS

Mystery photographs



183 It is October in southwest Britain and anything can turn up. You are being bombarded by vagrants from all points of the compass when you come upon this unfamiliar bird in some poplars *Populus* (plate 267, repeated here in black-and-white). You realise immediately that it looks odd, but cannot work out why. Stop, slow down and take a deep breath. Now, let us work through it logically.

Comparisons with the leaves suggest that the bird is very small, while the thin bill, small head, relatively uniform upperparts and slightly forked tail all suggest one of the smaller warblers. The tail shape excludes the *Acrocephalus* warblers, while the fairly obvious supercilium and eye-stripe rule out the *Sylvia* species and also make the *Hippolais* warblers much less likely. This last genus tends to have less obvious supercilia and eye-stripes than our bird (apart from Booted Warbler *H. caligata*, which is more *Phylloscopus*-like, but never so brightly

plumaged as our mystery bird). From all this, and the decidedly olive tone to the upperparts, we can feel fairly certain that we are watching a *Phylloscopus* warbler, but which one? The time has come for more critical examination.

The bird's shape is quite distinctive. It has relatively long wings reaching past the uppertail-coverts, and it is rather plump for a *Phylloscopus*. The wings are also fairly plain. These facts suggest that it is one of five species occurring in the West Palearctic: Arctic *P. borealis*, Bonelli's *P. bonelli*, Greenish *P. trochiloides*, Willow *P. trochilus* and Wood Warbler *P. sibilatrix*. All others can be excluded, as they have either short wings, or obvious wingbars, or both. Let us look farther. The head shows a dagger-like bill with a dark tip, while at least the cutting edges are paler. There is an obvious eye-stripe running from in front of the eye through to the rear of the ear-coverts, but this line does not seem quite to reach the bill. A broad supercilium stretches from the forehead to the rear of the ear-coverts, but does not extend onto the nape, which is slightly greyer than the rest of the upperparts. The wings are long, and each of the primaries has a very obvious white tip, forming a 'ladder' on the closed wing; the tertials and secondaries are edged paler, creating a wing panel. Looking at the wing-coverts, there seem to be pale tips to the greater coverts, forming a long but not very distinct wingbar, and a similar but even less obvious marking on the median coverts. The underparts are paler on the belly and flanks than on the breast. What is it, then?

We can rule out Bonelli's Warbler on the strength of the facial patterning: that species usually has a comparatively bland face (with less well-marked supercilium and weak eye-stripe) in which the dark 'beady' eye stands out. Willow Warbler also seems unlikely, for it would not show the mystery bird's dark legs, obvious white tips to the primaries and those rather odd covert markings—and surely our bird is too fat for that species? Remembering the time of year, it looks quite like Arctic Warbler with the long wings, pot-belly and perhaps two, admittedly indistinct, wingbars, but the supercilium would be more obvious and longer on any Arctic, reaching onto the nape; the fore-supercilium is also wrong, as this stops short of the bill on Arctic while it reaches onto the forehead on the mystery bird, and, moreover, Arctic Warbler has pale legs. Although the fore-supercilium and eye-stripe are right for Greenish Warbler, in all honesty it does not look much like that species, which does not have this plump look to it nor the spots on the primary tips; I would expect it to have, like Arctic Warbler, a longer, paler and more obvious supercilium and an orangey lower mandible—and Greenish does not usually show a median-covert bar. We have already excluded Two-barred Greenish Warbler *P. plumbeitarsus* by the fact that it would show a more obvious greater-covert wingbar (more akin to that of Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus*), but it would also have a more obvious supercilium. Green Warbler *P. nitidus* comes to mind, but again that species is slimmer, with an orangey lower mandible, and a very long supercilium extending onto the nape. We are therefore left with Wood Warbler, which has a supercilium just like this bird's, the classic row of white spots on the primary tips, and the same white belly and yellow throat. The legs, however, are the wrong colour, and Wood Warbler would surely never show even indistinct wingbars like this; it would also have more obvious pale edges to the secondaries and tail, and its wings would be even longer (and, despite what we

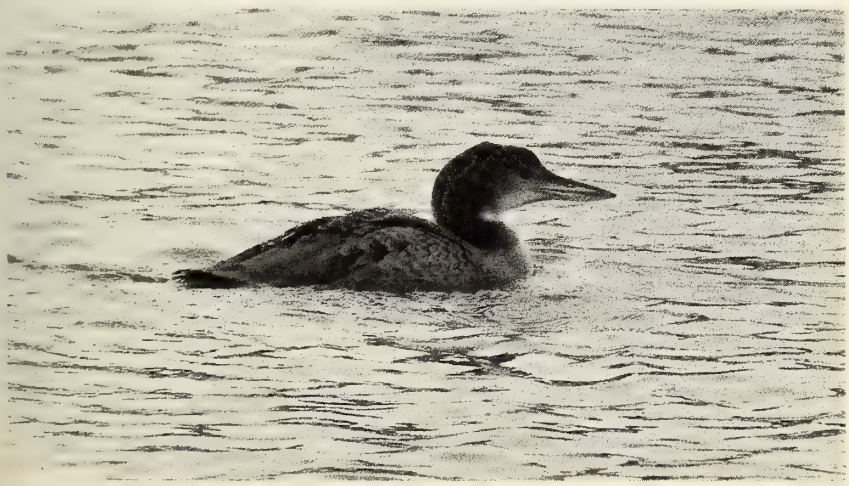
may have thought or read, the yellow below does not in fact extend to the breast, but is restricted to the chin and throat).

Our bird shows features intermediate between Wood Warbler and Arctic Warbler, and this description has already been applied to vagrant Tennessee Warblers *Vermivora peregrina* which have appeared in Britain (*Brit. Birds* 77: 160-164). Tennessee is the most *Phylloscopus*-like of all the American wood-warblers (Parulidae), and, in my opinion, could be passed over in a fall of Willow Warblers. The three British vagrants have all been fairly distinctive, with lime-green upperparts, bright yellow underparts and fairly obvious wingbars. Not all Tennessee Warblers, however, are like this; some are no brighter than Wood Warbler, and many have very indistinct wingbars (which may even be lacking). As can be seen from the original colour photograph, not all have the indistinct facial pattern shown by the first two British individuals, on Fair Isle, Shetland (*Brit. Birds* 74: 90-94), nor do they all call regularly as did the three so far recorded in Britain (the majority I have encountered in the USA and Canada have been silent). Nevertheless, their sharp 'chit' or 'zit' could easily be mistaken for the call of Arctic Warbler, though not for that of other *Phylloscopus* warblers. Given a reasonable view, however, it should be possible to identify this species easily enough. The combination of long wings with white primary tips, dark legs, dagger-shaped dark bill with pale cutting edges, chunky shape, bright green upperparts, yellow breast, either white or yellow belly, white undertail-coverts and sometimes one or two indistinct wingbars, makes this a distinctive, if sometimes not so obvious, bird. I photographed this individual, a presumed immature, on Hecla Island, Manitoba, Canada, in August 1991.

We should perhaps bear in mind that Orange-crowned Warbler *V. celata* is similar in autumn plumages to Tennessee and is a potential vagrant to western Europe. Orange-crowned, however, always has yellow undertail-coverts and generally more pronounced wingbars.

COLIN BRADSHAW
9 Tynemouth Place, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 4BJ

301. Mystery photograph 184. Identify the species. Answer next month



Reviews

An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire. Edited by Peter Deans, Jack Sankey, Leo Smith, John Tucker, Chris Whittles & Colin Wright. Shropshire Ornithological Society, Shrewsbury, 1992. 204 pages; 142 line-drawings; 140 maps. Paperback £9.95.

The Breeding Bird Atlas of Cheshire and Wirral. By J. P. Guest, D. Elphick, J. S. A. Hunter & D. Norman. Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society, Macclesfield, 1992. 310 pages; 10 black-and-white plates; 106 line-drawings; 157 maps. £16.95.

There has been a steady flow of local breeding bird atlases published over the past 20 years, but it has not often happened that two have been published more or less simultaneously. In this case, both deserve full reviews in *British Birds*, but, since they refer to adjoining counties, they are here combined in a single account.

The basic details for both surveys and both books are essentially similar. The recording unit for both is the standard 2 km × 2 km square (the tetrad), of which there are 870 in Shropshire and 670 in Cheshire and the Wirral. The Shropshire survey was carried out by 387 observers during the six years 1985-90; the Cheshire survey by about 350 observers during the seven years 1978-84. Both surveys were based on presence/absence within each tetrad, with breeding evidence following the internationally recommended European Ornithological Atlas Committee categories. The results are displayed in the usual way, with three sizes of dots signifying 'possible', 'probable' and 'confirmed' breeding, and both books include alongside each species map the numbers of records in each of these three categories. The Cheshire maps are rather larger (full-page width), but the Shropshire maps are no less clear, with the dots shown in red against the black 10-km grid.

Both books provide excellent background information, and have obviously been very well thought out by their organising/editorial committees. *Cheshire and Wirral* for instance, has maps showing the county boundaries in the region before and after the administrative changes which took place on 1st April 1974. For the reader living outside the area, it is especially helpful to have a series of good black-and-white photographs of a range of habitats. *Shropshire*, on the other hand, has produced useful 'habitat maps', using the presence of typical birds of, for instance, 'open moorland' or 'woodland'. There are excellent explanations of mapping methods, data collection, how population estimates were made, and so on. Standard methods of display and presentation of results is followed, but without applying these rigidly when it is sensible to do otherwise. For instance, *Shropshire* includes maps for Quail *Coturnix coturnix* with all the 1985-90 records, but also excluding those for 1989 which was a 'Quail year'.

Following what has almost become a tradition in such atlases, *Shropshire* includes a heading line-drawing for every species, alongside its map and statistics. *Cheshire and Wirral*, on the other hand, includes a scattering of such drawings, but not one for every species.

With literally tens of thousands of records to be sorted, checked and plotted, the production of atlases, even for single counties such as these, is a gigantic task. Publication usually cannot be hurried. *Cheshire and Wirral* has perhaps taken rather longer than usual to reach publication (eight years), whereas the *Shropshire* account has been speedier than usual (only two years) but does not give any evidence of the quality suffering as a result. The *Cheshire and Wirral* texts are extremely readable, with much reference back to past surveys, censuses and the county literature. When digging into the text, I almost invariably became 'hooked', reading far beyond the single point which I had originally intended to refer to. Similarly with *Shropshire*, there were numerous interesting points, such as the colonisation by Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* and the proportions of the three common owls (Barn Owls *Tyto alba* in 30% of tetrads, Little Owls *Athene noctua* in 67% and Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* in 75%—the comparable *Cheshire and Wirral* figures being 12%, 56% and 67%). The woodpecker information is equally interesting, the *Shropshire* figures being Lesser Spotted *Dendrocopos minor* 25%, Green *Picus viridis* 56% and Great Spotted *D. major* 83%, and the comparable *Cheshire and Wirral* percentages being 37%, 35% and 75%. Both counties have shown increases in numbers and range of several species, such as Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*. I could go on and on, detailing points of similarity or difference between these two adjoining counties.

The enormous amount of work put in by the observers and the organisers of these two surveys is reflected fully in these two excellent books, one a paperback, the other a hardback, but both very well worth purchasing if you have any interest in the distribution of Britain's breeding birds, especially those in that interesting corner of northwest England bordering on Wales. Congratulations to all concerned! J. T. R. SHARROCK

British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails. By Eric Simms. HarperCollins, London, 1992. 320 pages; 4 colour plates by Norman Arlott; 55 black-and-white plates; 34 line-drawings; 40 maps. Paperback £14.99.

The first chapter, The Family Tree, gives a brief introduction to the characteristics and classification of the genera in the families Alaudidae and Motacillidae. The second and seventh chapters are introductions to the morphology and biology of the larks and of the pipits and wagtails, respectively. The species accounts make up the bulk of the book. These cover identification, vocalisations, distribution, habitat, breeding biology, and so on. For the species which are common in Britain, these accounts span some 10-20 pages; for the rarer ones, the texts are rather short. Migration and movements are dealt with in a separate chapter at the end.

The texts are a wealth of information, and the author has obviously gone through the literature thoroughly, as reflected by the extensive bibliography (although he has missed some important papers on identification and taxonomy). The lack of headings in the texts, however, makes them somewhat inaccessible if one is looking for something specific. The style of writing is very free, and the author frequently refers to his personal observations, as well as quoting famous poets.

This is not an identification handbook, and the author is obviously more interested in various aspects of the biology of these birds than in their identification. Consequently, the identification texts are rather brief and not very authoritative.

For someone with a general interest in these fascinating birds, this book is much recommended. PER ALSTROM

Short reviews

Waters of the Wild Swan. By Jim Crumley. (Jonathan Cape, London, 1992. 168 pages. £15.99) The author of *A High and Lonely Place*, a passionate evocation of the Cairngorms, now turns to swans, describing, in flowing prose, his acute and accurate observations of Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* nesting in Edinburgh and of Whooper Swans *C. cygnus* wintering in the Highlands. He makes a strong protest against the continued persecution, by hooligans, of Mute Swans in urban areas. [MAO]

The Survival World of Birds. By John Gooders. (Boxtree, London, 1992. 224 pages. £19.99) 'The book of the TV series' with lots of excellent colour photographs, and an intriguing text posing many problems, puzzles and mysteries, and explaining them whenever possible. [JTRS]

Projects with Birds. By Peter Goodfellow. (The Crowood Press, Ramsbury, 1992. 128 pages. £12.99) This is a sound introduction to ornithology (rather than to birdwatching) and is appropriate for the young, or for older readers wanting to develop their hobby. The text is clearly written, with many personal observations. There are introductions to popular BTO surveys, and lots of other ideas for personal study as well. The one or two pages allocated to each topic are well utilised, and the author challenges the reader to move beyond bird identification and to discover more about the lives of common and less-common species. [PETER HOLDEN]

Woodland and Wildlife. By Keith Kirby. (Whittet Books, London, 1992. 128 pages. £14.99) A marvellous text, full of interesting information, but this is a very high price for a slim volume with not a single photograph (where there should have been a dozen or more in colour to illustrate the variety and beauty of British woodlands). [JTRS]

The Pinyon Jay: behavioral ecology of a colonial and cooperative corvid. By John M. Marzluff & Russell P. Balda. (T. & A. D. Poyser, London, 1992. 317 pages.

£20.00) Appearances can be deceptive and in terms of its size and shape the Pinyon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus* looks more like a starling than a crow. Its beautiful cobalt-blue plumage, however, reveals its true ancestry as a New World jay. The Pinyon Jay is one of several corvids that live in groups and, as the authors point out, 'the Pinyon Jay's societies represent a pinnacle in the evolution of avian sociality'. This species' remarkable behaviour and ecology have evolved around its almost total dependence on the seeds of the Pinyon pine *Pinus edulis*. Summarising the findings of 15 years' research, this book comprises a fascinating and detailed account of one of North America's more unusual birds.

[T. R. BIRKHEAD]

The Birds of Islay. By Malcolm Ogilvie. (Lochindaal Press, Isle of Islay, 1992. 48 pages. Paperback. £3.50) The author, now resident on Islay, has published an excellent, much-needed booklet which fills a gap in the island's literature. Short chapters include 'Transport to and on the island', 'Where to stay', 'When to visit', a 17-page section with maps describing the main localities in a clear and concise manner, and a systematic list giving brief details of all 266 species recorded to the end of 1991. The author's easy-to-read but authoritative writing provides a wonderful insight into the superb birding opportunities of this lovely island and the booklet is an essential purchase for the intending visitor. [DAVID CLUGSTON]

Birdwatching in Lesbos. By Marjorie Williams. (Marjorie Williams, Leamington Spa, 1992. 45 pages. £4.50) Includes a list of species recorded, but is essentially a 'where-to-watch guide' covering 17 birdwatching sites on the island, with handwritten (but easy-to-read) text and hand-drawn maps. [JTRS]

ALSO RECEIVED:

Parrots. By David Alderton. (Whittet Books, London, 1992. 128 pages. £8.95)

Pond Life. By Trevor Beebee. (Whittet Books, London, 1992. 128 pages. £6.95)

Birds of Britain and Europe. Revised edn. By Bertel Bruun, Håkan Delin & Lars Svensson. Illustrated by Arthur Singer & Dan Zetterström. (Hamlyn, London, 1992. 320 pages. Paperback £7.99)(First edn reviewed *Brit. Birds* 80: 28-29)

Avifauna e Ambiente in Provincia di Forlì: le Communità di Uccelli come Indicatori Ecologici. By Ugo E. Foschi & Stefano Gellini. [Evaluating the environment by means of the bird communities: an example in the forest of Forlì](Museo Ornitologico di Forlì, Forlì, 1992. No price given) (Summary in English)

Where to Watch Birds in Wales. 2nd edn. By David Saunders. (Christopher Helm, London, 1992. Paperback £10.99)(First edn reviewed *Brit. Birds* 81: 407-408)

Seventy-five years ago...

'EVIDENCE FOR THE BREEDING OF THE GREEN SANDPIPER. To the Editors of *British Birds*. Sirs,—Concerning my article on the Breeding of the Green Sandpiper in Westmorland, in your October issue (*antea*, p. 103), you state in an editorial that: "Had one of the young birds been taken, and its skin preserved in some public museum, lasting and incontrovertible proof would have been afforded, and it seems to us a great pity that the opportunity of obtaining such proof was missed. When I recorded the first nesting of the Eider Duck in Ireland in your issue of September, 1912 (Vol. VI, p. 106), where the eggs were taken in ignorance by my friend, who did not know the species was so rare in that country, your editorial was as follows: "This is a most interesting extension of the known breeding range of the Eider, and we think it was a great pity that the eggs were taken . . .? H. W. ROBINSON

[In our view there is no inconsistency in the remarks quoted by Mr Robinson. In the case of the breeding of the Eider, identification could have been made certain by taking a sample of down or by removal of a single egg . . . In the case of the Green Sandpiper, no competent ornithologist saw the old birds and young birds together, and probably not one of those who saw the young birds was capable of distinguishing a young Common Sandpiper from a young Green Sandpiper . . .EDS.]' (*Brit. Birds* 11: 168, December 1917).

Field identification of Black-faced Bunting



Colin Bradshaw

Most of the common species of migratory passerine that breed in Central Siberia have been recorded at some time in Britain and Ireland. One of the major exceptions is the Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*. Although considered a potential future vagrant to Britain by Wallace (1980), this species has since been largely ignored in the British literature, despite four records in northern Europe, including three in the last decade. These records are of a first-winter female in 1910 and an unaged male in May 1980, both on Heligoland, Germany (Moritz 1984); an unaged male in Finland in November 1981 (Mikkola 1982); and a first-winter male in the Netherlands in November 1986 (van Ree & van den Berg 1987; *Brit. Birds* 82: plate 13).

The Black-faced Bunting's breeding and wintering ranges (fig. 1) are similar to those of regular vagrants such as Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* and Pallas's Warbler *P. proregulus*. It is abundant both on its breeding grounds and on migration through China. Its autumn plumage, however, is relatively dull, and this, combined with its skulking nature and preferred habitat, may explain why there has never been a claim of this species in Britain. This is compounded by the fact that information on female and immature plumages is incomplete, and sometimes even misleading, both in the regional field guides and in the weightier tomes covering the same areas.

This species is rare in captivity in the United Kingdom, where it is known by a variety of names, including Masked, Grey-headed or Grey-hooded Bunting. There has, however, been an instance of one escaping from the National Exhibition of Cage and Aviary Birds in Birmingham, in December 1989. Many are exported from Hong Kong to Germany (P. Leader *in litt.*).

Distribution and habitat

The Black-faced Bunting breeds in eastern Asia east to Sakhalin and Japan, north to the Verkhoyansk range on the Lena river, west to the Novosibirsk

region and south to North Yunnan. It is mainly migratory, wintering south to Indochina and west to eastern Nepal. The breeding and wintering areas of the three races are shown in fig. 1.

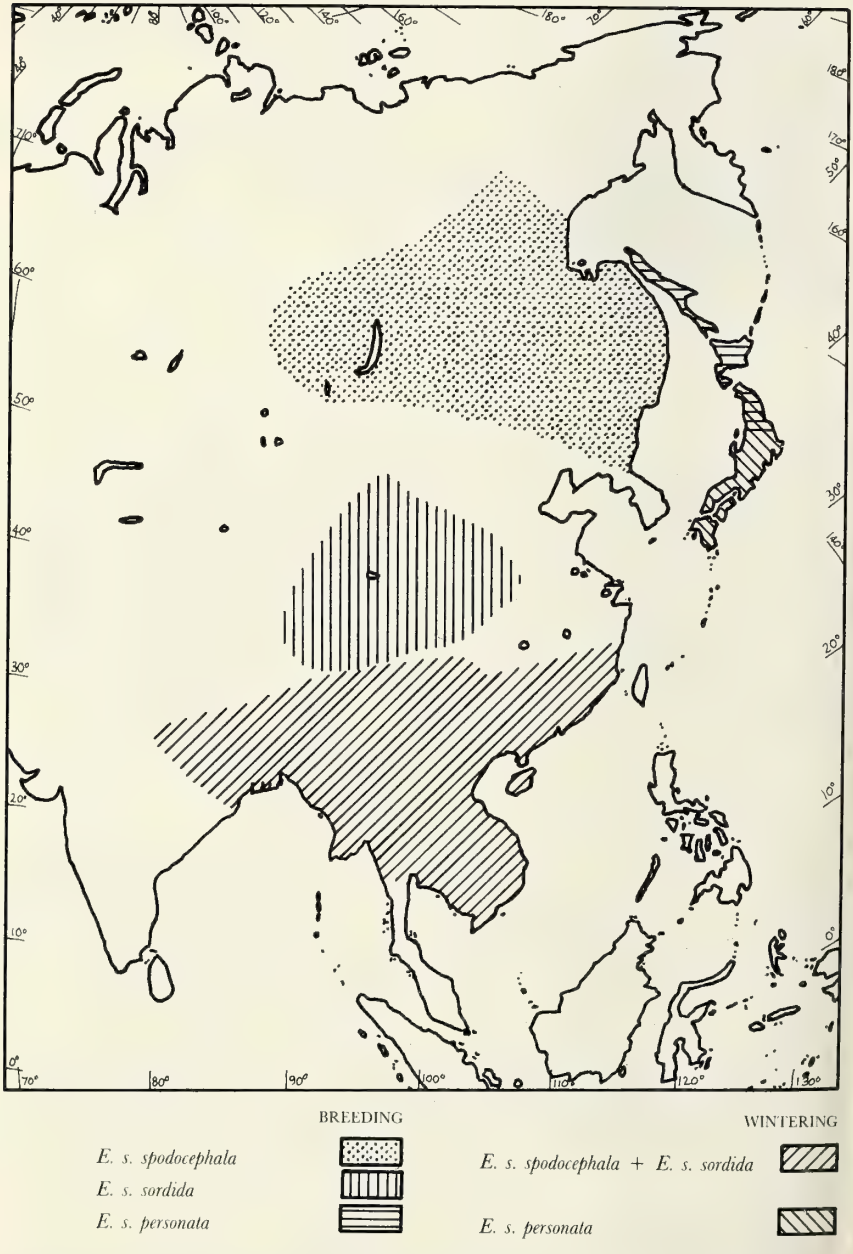


Fig. 1. Map showing breeding and wintering ranges of Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*

In the breeding season, all races share the same habitat preferences for thick bushes and small trees in wet areas, either in river valleys or in marshland (Dementiev & Gladkov 1969). They will also occupy territory along forest edges and have occasionally been found to breed within both deciduous and coniferous woods. On migration and in winter, they occupy a wider range of habitats, including grassland, paddies, scrub, reedbeds, woodland and cultivated areas: in fact, almost any habitat with sufficient cover.

Identification

Because of its geographical distribution, the nominate race is the one most likely to occur in Britain, although the race *sordida* is also a possible vagrant. These two races are very similar in autumn plumages. The descriptions below apply to the nominate race; racial differences are discussed briefly later.

Moult

Adults undergo a complete post-breeding moult and juveniles a body moult in late summer. Adult males are usually easily separable in autumn, but most immature males and all females are similar in plumage and indistinguishable in the field at that time of year. Immature males attain adult plumage by two processes: the major one is abrasion of the pale brown tips to the grey head feathers, while a secondary process involves replacement, by moult, of the brown lores and pale chin with the black of the adult male (a similar process occurs among several other bunting species, including Yellow-breasted *E. aureola*). Both these processes start in November-December and continue into the early spring. There may be a small number of individuals that exhibit a 'first-summer plumage' and will not attain adult plumage until the summer moult in their second calendar-year. Females are probably impossible to age in the field.

Because of the similarity between females and immatures in autumn, these are taken as the starting point for the plumage description, with any relevant variations discussed later.

General impression

In most plumages, female/immature Black-faced Bunting is a dull, grey-brown, featureless bunting with no obvious distinguishing field marks. Its whole body (i.e. excluding the head), however, is very reminiscent of that of a Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, setting it apart from other buntings. It is small, and relatively plain-faced, although most show a strong, off-white submoustachial stripe and some show a fairly prominent supercilium. It has a rusty wing-panel (the most colourful part of the bird), heavily streaked, yellowy or grey underparts, and prominent white outer tail feathers. Structurally, it is a medium-sized bunting with a stout, conical bill, short wings and a long tail.

Behaviour

Like many buntings, Black-faced can be quite confiding. It shuffles around

'on the floor', again recalling a Dunnock, and flies into cover when disturbed. It frequently flicks open its tail, revealing the white outer feathers, and when alarmed may raise its rear crown feathers to form a small, ragged crest.

Autumn plumage of females and immature males

HEAD AND NECK Forehead and crown olive-brown mixed with dark brown streaking and grey flecks; on well-marked individuals, dark streaking can occasionally form thin lines. Centre of crown usually more grey and less streaked than crown sides, sometimes forming indistinct (though noticeable: K. E. Vinicombe *in litt.*) central crown-stripe, with warmer brown lateral crown-stripes; depending on preponderance of colours, general appearance of crown can vary from dull grey-brown to warm brown. Nape always noticeably grey, usually with hint of olive, contrasting with crown and mantle on 'warm' individuals but merging on 'cold' ones. Supercilium grey-white to creamy-white from behind eye and extending to blend into nape (can appear yellower at rear: K. E. Vinicombe *in litt.*), varies individually from reasonably obvious to quite indistinct; in front of eye supercilium fades into diffuse darker area on lores, although can reach bill on some individuals. Thin pale eye-crescent below eye. Eye-stripe indistinct, thin and dark brown, running backwards from eye and continuing around cheeks to form unbroken border that becomes moustachial stripe, which reaches to bill (although, on some individuals, this can be indistinct or even absent); broadest areas of this border are at upper and lower rear corners of cheeks (on poorly marked individuals this can be difficult to see). Cheeks are mixture of brown and grey, often with paler spot between two dark rear corners. Submoustachial stripe is most noticeable feature: it is broad, grey-white to buffy-white, starting at bill and gradually broadening to rear corner of cheeks, where it kinks upwards and then gradually fades into either grey of nape or, on some, rear of cheeks. Grey shawl often formed where nape, supercilium and submoustachial stripe join. Black or blackish-brown malar stripe (sometimes consisting of several thin streaks together, forming stripe that looks solid from any distance) starts at bill and broadens onto side of throat. Chin and throat pale, either yellow, white or occasionally grey, usually with fine dark streaks (but sometimes either unstreaked or with very heavy streaking), bordered below by more obvious streaking on upper breast.

UPPERPARTS Mantle greyish-brown, rufous-brown or olive-brown, with broad blackish-brown feather centres often superimposed and giving impression of black lines on rufous-brown or grey-brown background. In fresh plumage, some individuals have very fine grey margins to mantle feathers which, though not visible in field, do produce noticeably grey appearance. Scapulars as mantle, but sometimes with more rusty-brown tones. Rump virtually unstreaked brown to grey-brown (some faint streaking sometimes visible in hand). Uppertail-coverts as rump, but with faint dark feather centres (again not visible in field). Remiges very dark brown, finely edged rusty-brown, paler on primaries than on secondaries. Inner webs of tertials black with broad rusty tips, outer webs with very broad rusty-brown fringes sometimes involving whole of outer web and with noticeable indentation into feather centre; indentations on three tertials produce solid line of colour (fig. 2); outer webs of tertials together with edgings to secondaries form area of rusty-brown which is most colourful part of bird. Greater coverts black with broad beige tips and pale brown to rusty-brown edges (occasionally both edges and tips are of same colour). Median coverts with black bases and beige tips. Tips of greater and median coverts form two thin, but distinct, wing-

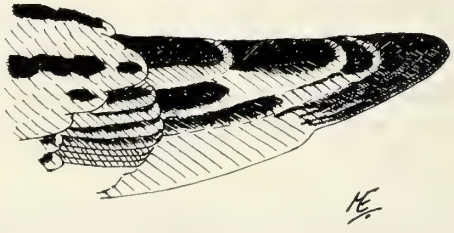


Fig. 2. Tertial pattern of Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* (*Martin Eccles*)



Fig. 3. Pattern of outer three tail feathers of Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*. About 30% show some white on third feather (*Martin Eccles*)

bars. Lesser coverts (rarely visible in field) are uniform olive-brown (described as grey on one female observed by K. E. Vinicombe *in litt.*). Alula black or charcoal-grey with distinct, thin pale margin. Inner tail feathers mid-brown to blackish-brown with broad paler or rusty-brown edges; second outer rectrices black with a white wedge on inner web; on outer rectrices, distal half of inner web and all of outer web white except for small blob at end of outer web (see fig. 3), but all that shows in field appears white. About 30% of individuals trapped in Hong Kong show a small area of white on third outer rectrix (P. Leader *in litt.*).

UNDERPARTS Basic colour varies from greyish-white to creamy-yellow, with some individuals showing more yellow tones. Grey or buffy (depending on age) suffusion across breast, often with sharply demarcated lower border. Upper breast has diffuse dark grey or brown streaking of variable intensity, often forming gorget; on lower breast, streaking usually much less heavy or absent. Belly unstreaked, though occasionally mottled. Flanks show broad blackish-brown streaks reaching to (but not including) undertail-coverts.

BARE PARTS Bill long and conical, with striking colour pattern: distinctly two-toned, with all of upper mandible except cutting edge black, while entire lower mandible is pink except for a small grey area at tip. Legs and feet pink, with paler soles and dark grey claws.

Age-related and sex-related plumage differences

ADULT MALE In breeding plumage, very distinctive. Head, neck, nape, throat and upper breast grey with olive tinge. Lores, forehead, ocular area and chin black. Underparts from breast to undertail-coverts yellow, with dark flank streaks. In early autumn, extensive brown tips to head feathers and pale tips to underside produce much less distinctive mottled plumage, though still separable from females and immatures; this gradually changes, by abrasion of feather tips and moult of lores and chin, from October through to April, when most have full plumage.

FIRST-YEAR MALE Indistinguishable from females in early autumn, but by late December most are beginning to show some signs of grey on head and black around lores. Most attain full adult plumage in their first summer. Some individuals in song in Siberia, however, have no black on face even in June; these may be first-summer males in incomplete plumage.

FEMALE No obvious way of ageing females in the field. Skin studies suggest that first-year females tend to show buffy breast-band, while adults are more grey. Those females which display heavy streaking on breast were thought by La Touche (1925-30) to be first-years, but this is not borne out by examination of skins. By April-May, some show white wingbars, but this is presumably a result of bleaching rather than age, as this feature is not present in autumn.

Racial differences

Males of the race *sordida* are most distinctive, with 'hood' sage-green rather than olive-grey and with yellow of underparts more intense than on nominate *spodocephala* and approaching that of *personata*. Females and possibly immatures are probably yellower below than those of nominate race, but there is so much overlap as to make it unsafe to separate these racially.

Males of the race *personata* are noticeably different, with yellow submoustachial stripe, black chin, and yellow throat and upper breast heavily streaked black; underparts bright yellow; and upperparts noticeably darker, with more rusty tones. Females and immatures display yellow supercilium, submoustachial stripe and underparts. Both sexes are obviously darker than nominate race.

Call

Not distinctive, though frequently given on migration and on wintering grounds. A quiet, slightly sibilant 'tsick', 'tic' or 'tick', often repeated.

Similar species

The two species most likely to be confused with Black-faced Bunting in Europe are females and immatures of the Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus* and of the similarly unremarkable, though both smaller and paler, vagrant Pallas's Reed Bunting *E. pallasi*. Pallas's Reed was discussed in detail by both Broad & Oddie (1980) and Riddiford & Broome (1983). All other buntings, including Chestnut Bunting *E. rutila*, considered by Wallace (1980) to be a confusion species, have some distinctive features.

Black-faced Bunting is marginally smaller than Reed, but there is some overlap in measurements. This size difference is unlikely to be of any value when observing a solitary individual. Pallas's Reed Bunting is noticeably smaller than either species, being more the size of Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* or Little Bunting *E. pusilla*. Black-faced, like many buntings (including Reed), appears quite long-tailed, especially in flight. When perched, this long-tailed look is accentuated by the relatively short wings, though this is of limited value in the field. Pallas's Reed Bunting, by contrast, is relatively short-tailed and has a jizz which distinctly recalls a sparrow *Passer*, being dumpy and quite big-headed.



Fig. 4. Heads of immature/female Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* and two confusion species, Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus* and Pallas's Reed Bunting *E. pallasi*. Note that the submoustachial stripe is the dominant field mark, whilst supercilium and malar stripe are more obvious on Reed Bunting (*Martin Eccles*)

The inclusion of fig. 5 and plates 302-312 in colour has been subsidised by a donation from *Carl Zeiss—Germany*.



Fig. 5. Black-faced Buntings *Emberiza spodocephala* (top three), Pallas's Reed Bunting *E. pallasi* (bottom left) and Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus* (bottom right)(*painted by R. J. Hathway*)





Black-faced Buntings *Emberiza spodocephala*

302. Above, normal female, Hong Kong, November 1989 (*P. J. Leader*). Note greater-coverts bar is warm brown in autumn

303. Left, female, Hong Kong, February 1991 (*P. J. Leader*). Note two-tone bill

304. Below, first-winter male, Netherlands, January 1987 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*). Note black showing around facial area



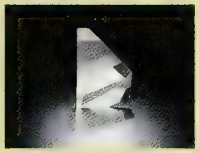


Experience bird-watching in a whole new light.

Witness the best that nature has to offer through the eyes of the new EDII A angled body type Fieldscope.

Its one-piece advanced prism design reflects 100% light for brighter viewing from dawn to dusk. And a new 30x wide eyepiece offers a wider view field at higher magnification.

For a closer look at the best range of binoculars and Fieldscopes in the world, zoom into your nearest Nikon dealer or binocular specialist.



Nikon's advanced prism design



10x40DCF HP RA



8x30ECF WF



Fieldscope EDII

Fieldscope EDII / II and 8x30ECF WF recommended by *British Birds* magazine.

Nikon Binoculars

NIKON UK LTD. (United Kingdom)
380 RICHMOND ROAD, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, SURREY KT2 5PR
TEL: (081) 541 4440 FAX: (081) 541 4584
Somerton Foto Ltd. (The Republic of Ireland)
TEL: (01) 773173

10-YEAR WARRANTY

THE DEFINITIVE BINOCULAR



Carl Zeiss experience and quality has achieved a world wide reputation for excellence.

In their latest Binocular Survey, the readers of the universally respected, British Birds magazine voted Carl Zeiss, 'Top Binocular for the Future', an accolade which was awarded, to Carl Zeiss in the two previous surveys.

The 7x42B/GA T* Dialyt is renowned for its high twilight performance and field of view. With easy-grip rubber armouring to minimise reflection and noise, it is unsurpassed for dawn and dusk observation.

The naturalist's definitive binocular.

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE: Link Cameras & Video, Reading; Vic Odden, Maidenhead
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Campkins Cambridge Camera Exchange, Cambridge
CHESHIRE: Focalpoint, Higher Whitley; Wildings Photographic, Wilmslow; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Crewe; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Stockpo; Crewe Camera Exchange Ltd, Chester; Wildings Photographic Ltd, Northwich
CO DURHAM: Risbeys Modern Camera Shop, Darlington
CUMBRIA: J N Murray, Keswick; I L & J L Robson Ltd, Carlisle
DEVON: Devon Camera Centre, Exeter
ESSEX: E J Markham & Son Ltd, Colchester
GTR MANCHESTER: Beavers of Bolton Ltd, Bolton; Pennine Photographic & Binocular Centre, Rochdale
HANTS: Link Cameras & Video, Basingstoke
HERTFORDSHIRE: In Focus, Barnet
KENT: Pantiles Camera Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Owens Photographic, Bromley
LANCASHIRE: Abbey Photographic, Blackpool; Lamberts Ltd, Lancaster
LEICESTERSHIRE: Youngs Cameras, Leicester
LONDON: Asprey & Company Ltd; Ci Camera Exchange Ltd, Cannon Stree City Camera Exchange Ltd, Fleet Stre Swaine & Adeney, Piccadilly; City Camera Exchange Ltd, Victoria Stree Harrods Ltd; City Camera Exchange High Holborn; Vic Odden Photograph Ltd, London Bridge Walk; Sonic Techn (Rother Cameras), Tottenham Court Road; Selfridges Ltd; Wallace Heaton Ltd; Tecno City, Moorgate; Tecno City Kensington High Road; Fox Talbot Ltd Tottenham Court Road; Fox Talbot Ltd The Strand; Richard Caplan, SW1
MERSEYSIDE: Scope City Ltd, Liverp
NORFOLK: Norwich Camera Centre, Norwich
SHROPSHIRE: Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Shrewsbury
SUFFOLK: Charles Frank Ltd, Saxmundham
SURREY: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Croydon; Kay Optical, Morden
SUSSEX: City Camera Exchange Ltd, Brighton; Hannington Ltd, Brighton, Worthing Sale & Exchange, Worthing
TYNE & WEAR: J Bonser Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne
W. MIDLANDS: Focus Optics, Coven Sherwoods Photographic Ltd, Birmingham; Shrewsbury Camera Exchange Ltd, Wolverhampton; Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Solihu Cequip Photo & Video Centre, Dudley
YORKSHIRE: Bradford Camera Exch Ltd, Bradford; Janet Green Photogra Halifax; Bligh Camera & Optical, Lee Bass & Bligh Ltd, Leeds, Coverdale Fletcher Ltd, York; J H Preston & So Harrogate, Walkers Studios, Scarbor Sheffield Photographic Centre, Sheff

CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY: Gruts Ltd
JERSEY: Johnson & Johnson

NORTHERN IRELAND

CO DOWN: Churchfield Optics

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: J Lizars Ltd; Countrywe Ballater
EDINBURGH: J Lizars Ltd, Charles
GLASGOW: J Lizars Ltd
GRANTOWN ON SPEY: Ritches Countrywear, Moray
INVERNESS: Sport in Scotland Ltd
ROSS-SHIRE: Macleod & Son, Tain
PERTH: Perthshire Field Sports
Plus all branches of LONDON CAM EXCHANGE LTD, throughout the co

If you require further information a Carl Zeiss Binoculars, please write Carl Zeiss (Oberkochen) Ltd, Binocular Division, Dept BB, P O B Woodfield Road, Welwyn Garden C Hertfordshire, AL7 1LU.

ZEISS
Germany
Carl Zeis
096



British BirdShop



Listed books are POST FREE to 'British Birds' subscribers

The books included in British BirdShop are recommended by *British Birds* as reliable, good value and valuable additions to any birdwatcher's library. It is the aim of *British Birds* and Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd to provide *British Birds* subscribers with the best, most reliable and friendliest service possible.

Items ordered through British BirdShop are despatched for *British Birds* subscribers by Subbuteo Natural History Books Ltd. All correspondence concerning British BirdShop should be sent to British BirdShop, c/o Subbuteo Books, Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd CH7 4LN.

Books

All listed books are POST FREE.

SPECIAL OFFERS	*Please tick* ✓
British Birds/IBCE *International Bird Identification* (usually £10.50)	Paperback £9.50 ☐
Goodwin *Crows of the World* (BMNH) (usually £30)	£14.00 ☐
Ogilvie & Winter *Best Days with British Birds* (British Birds) EXCLUSIVE REDUCED PRICE (usually £14.95)	£6.95 ☐
Snow *The Cotingas* (BMNH/Cornell UP) (usually £40.00)	£20.00 ☐

NEW COUNTY ATLASES AND AVIFAUNAS	
(Orders for any three titles under this heading qualify for a 5% discount)	
Brucker, Gosler & Heryet *Birds of Oxfordshire* (Pisces)	£27.95 ☐
Cook *Birds of Moray and Nairn* (Aberdeen UP) DUE LATE 1992 (Orders accepted)	Paperback £9.95 ☐
Deans *et al. An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire* (SOS)	Paperback £9.95 ☐
Dymond *Birds of Fair Isle*	Paperback £11.95 ☐
Guest, Elphick, Hunter & Norman *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Cheshire and Wirral* (CAWOS)	£16.95 ☐
Mitcham *Rutland Breeding Bird Atlas* (Spiegl Press)	Paperback £6.50 ☐

NEW BOOKS THIS MONTH	
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 6 (warblers) (OUP)	£75.00 ☐
Crumley *Waters of the Wild Swan* (Jonathan Cape)	£14.99 ☐
Bruun, Delin, Svensson, *et al. Hamlyn Guide: Birds of Britain and Europe* (Hamlyn)	Paperback £7.99 ☐
del Hoyo, Elliot & Sargatal *Handbook of the Birds of the World* vol. 1 (Lynx)	£95.00 ☐
Ferguson-Lees & Paull *Endangered Birds* (George Philip)	£19.99 ☐
Ferns *Bird Life of Coasts and Estuaries* (CUP)	£29.95 ☐
Gooders *The Survival World of Birds* (Boxtree)	£19.99 ☐
Goodfellow *Projects with Birds* (Crowood)	£12.99 ☐
Kirby *Woodland and Wildlife* (Whittet)	£14.99 ☐
Marzluff & Balda *The Pinyon Jay: behavioural ecology of a colonial and cooperative corvid* (Poyser)	£20.00 ☐
Mundy, Butchart, Ledger & Piper *The Vultures of Africa* (Friedman/Academic)	£55.00 ☐
Ogilvie *The Birds of Islay* (Lochindaal)	Paperback £3.50 ☐
Tunnicliffe *Shorelands Winter Diary* (Robinson)	£16.95 ☐

COMING SOON – ORDER NOW	
Cramp *Birds of the Western Palearctic* vol. 7 (flycatchers to shrikes) (OUP) DUE SPRING 1993	approx. £75.00 ☐
Nightingale & Hill *The Birds of Bahrain* (Immel) DUE JANUARY 1993	approx. £29.95 ☐

RECOMMENDED BOOKS	
Alström, Colston & Lewington *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (HarperCollins)	£14.99 ☐
Bibby *Putting Biodiversity on the Map: priority areas for global conservation* (ICBP)	Paperback £12.95 ☐
Brooke & Birkhead *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology* (CUP)	£24.95 ☐
Campbell & Lack *A Dictionary of Birds* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1985	£49.50 ☐
Clements *Birds of the World: a check list* (Ibis)	£20.00 ☐
Dymond, Fraser & Gantlett *Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser)	£19.00 ☐
Flint *et al. A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR* (Princeton)	Paperback £22.75 ☐ Hardback £60.00 ☐
Fry, Fry & Harris *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers: a handbook* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1992	£27.99 ☐
Fry, Keith & Urban *The Birds of Africa* (Academic) ... vol. 1 £81.00 ☐ vol. 2 £81.00 ☐ vol. 3 £81.00 ☐ vol. 4	£85.00 ☐
Hancock, Kushlan & Kahl *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic)	£65.00 ☐
Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Macmillan)	£14.95 ☐
Harrison *Seabirds: an identification guide* Revised edn. 1991 (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1983	£24.99 ☐
Hayman, Marchant & Prater *Shorebirds: an identification guide to the waders of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1986	£24.99 ☐
Hollom, Porter, Christensen & Willis *Birds of the Middle East and North Africa* (Poyser)	£16.00 ☐
Howard & Moore *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World.* 2nd edn. (Academic)	£22.50 ☐
Hume & Boyer *Owls of the World* (Dragon's World)	£18.95 ☐

Please use the British BirdShop form overleaf to complete your order.



British BirdShop (continued)



Listed books are POST FREE to 'British Birds' subscribers

Please tick ✓

RECOMMENDED BOOKS (cont.)

Jonsson *Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* (Helm) £25.00 ☐
Knox *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* Sixth edition (BOU) Paperback £4.95 ☐
Lack *The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1987 £22.50 ☐
Langrand *Guide to the Birds of Madagascar* (Yale UP) £35.00 ☐
Lekagul, Round, Wongkalasin & Komolphalin *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Saha Karn Bhact) £32.50 ☐
Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge *The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £20.00 ☐
Madge & Burn *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the World* (Helm)
BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1988 £22.99 ☐
Marchant & Higgins *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* vol. 1 (OUP) £125.00 ☐
Mearns & Mearns *Audubon to Xantus: the lives of those commemorated in North American bird names* (Academic) £29.50 ☐
National Geographic *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1984 £12.95 ☐
Ridgely & Tudor *The Birds of South America* (OUP) (4 vols.) vol. 1 THE OSCINE PASSERINES £50.00 ☐
Roberts *Birds of Pakistan* (OUP) vol. 1 £40.00 ☐ vol. 2 £40.00 ☐
Sharrock *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland* (Poyser) £26.00 ☐
Sibley & Ahlquist *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (Yale UP) £60.00 ☐
Sibley & Monroe *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (Yale UP) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1991 £75.00 ☐
Simpson & Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Helm) Paperback £13.99 ☐
Turner & Rose *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World* (Helm) BEST BIRD BOOK OF 1990 £22.99 ☐
Voisin *The Herons of Europe* (Poyser) £22.50 ☐

OTHER TITLES

All the above titles are POST FREE. Any other natural history books in print may be ordered from Subbuteo. Please refer to the Subbuteo catalogue for details of current prices and postage rates.

Free copies of the Subbuteo catalogue are available on request: *tick this box* ☐

Binders

Please tick ✓

The British Birds Binder (holds 12 issues & index) cordex retaining £6.95 ☐
..... wirex retaining £6.95 ☐

Recordings

Please add £1.50 p&p per order

Please tick ✓

Gibbon *Southern African Bird Sounds* (6 cassettes, boxed) £49.95 ☐
Kettle *British Bird Songs and Calls* (2-cassette pack) £14.95 ☐
Kettle *More British Bird Sounds* (1 cassette) £6.35 ☐
Kettle & Ranft *British Bird Sounds on CD* (2 CDs) £29.00 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Britain and Europe* (Sittelle) (4 cassettes) £29.95 ☐
Roché *All the Bird Songs of Europe* (Sittelle) (4 CDs) £49.95 ☐

PRICES VALID DURING DECEMBER 1992

for all special offers (and for overseas customers only, also during the following month). Other prices quoted are subject to any publishers' increases.

Make all cheques and POs payable to Subbuteo NHB Ltd. Payment can be made in US$ at current exchange rate. Please allow 28 days for delivery in UK, longer if abroad. Giro ac no. 37 588 6303.

To qualify for POST FREE please quote your BB ref. no.

Name Ref. No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Address

..... Total £ Cheque/PO enclosed ☐ Giro payment made ☐

Any item ordered through British BirdShop which fails to meet your approval can be returned to Subbuteo and your money will be refunded without question.

You can also pay using these credit cards:

If your address for credit card purposes is different from that above, give it here

.....

.....

Please debit my Access/Visa/MasterCard/Eurocard ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

You can phone in your credit card orders, but please quote your BB ref. no. as well as your credit card no. TEL. Mold (0352) 770581. FAX. (0352) 771590

Send order to: **British BirdShop, c/o Subbuteo Books, Treuddyn, Mold, Clwyd CH7 4LN**



305. Bright female Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*, China, May 1990 (*C. Bradshaw*). Note submoustachial stripe still prominent





306 & 307. Normal female Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* showing supercilium more bright than usual, China, May 1990 (*C. Bradshaw*). Note grey shawl and whitish wingbars

308. Below, normal female Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* showing submoustachial stripe as most obvious field feature, UK (captive bird), December 1989 (*C. Bradshaw*)











Table 1. Differences between female and immature Black-faced *Emberiza spodocephala*, Reed *E. schoeniclus* and Pallas's Reed Buntings *E. pallasi*

Feature	Black-faced	Reed	Pallas's Reed
Bill	Long, conical; black upper and pink lower mandibles	Short, stubby; grey upper and lower mandibles	Short, stubby; grey upper and lower mandibles
Supercilium	Variable, usually indistinct	Distinct and broad	Variable, usually indistinct
Eye-stripe	Variable, usually indistinct	Variable, usually distinct	Indistinct or absent
Border to cheek	Indistinct	Distinct	Absent
'Ear-spot'	Variable	No contrast with rest of margin (though pale spot fairly obvious on some)	Variable, often prominent
Moustachial stripe	Indistinct or absent	Distinct	Indistinct or absent
Submoustachial stripe	Most conspicuous feature on head	Distinct but not obvious	Indistinct or absent
Malar stripe	Variable, often indistinct	Broad, dark and obvious	Obvious spot on side of throat
Mantle	Nondescript	Variable, often 'tramlines'	Obvious dark and light 'tramlines'
Rump	Grey-brown, no contrast with mantle	Grey-brown, no contrast with mantle	Pale, usually contrasts with mantle
Wingbars	Noticeable, buff or whitish	Indistinct	Prominent, whitish or buff
Tertials	Broad rusty edges, indented	Broad rusty edges, some indented and some uniform in width	Thin white edges, uniform in width
Underparts	Grey-white to yellow; usually heavy streaking on breast	Cream to buff; usually light brown streaking on breast	Cold grey-white; usually very light streaking on breast (often not apparent in field)
Crown	Grey-brown	Rufous-brown	Sandy-brown
Call	'tsick', 'tic' or 'tick'	'tseeu'	'chirrup'

FACING PAGE Black-faced Buntings *Emberiza spodocephala*

309. Top, female, China, May 1990 (*C. Bradshaw*). Note white on tail

310. Centre left, adult female, UK (captive bird), January 1992 (*C. Bradshaw*). Note body plumage recalling Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, and extent of white on tail

311. Centre right, female, China, May 1990 (*C. Bradshaw*)

312. Bottom, female, UK (captive bird), December 1989 (*C. Bradshaw*). Note grey supercilium less prominent than that of female in plates 306 & 307

Neither Reed nor Pallas's Reed, however, is particularly similar to Black-faced, even in female/immature plumages, and no real problems should be encountered in separating them from the last species. The best distinguishing features relate to the head pattern (see fig. 4 and table 1).

There is no continuous dark border to the cheek patch on Pallas's Reed Bunting, which usually has a thin dark moustachial stripe ending in a fairly obvious dark blob or 'ear-spot' at the lower corner, but this is not extended around the back of the cheeks nor is there a dark eye-stripe; neither the moustachial stripe nor the malar stripe reaches the bill, and the submoustachial stripe is therefore much less prominent. Pallas's Reed has more prominent dark brown and sandy-brown lines on the mantle, and shows uniform pale edges to its tertials (not the indented rusty edges of Black-faced). Pallas's Reed Bunting of the northern race *polaris* has a noticeably pale grey rump (nominate *pallasi* shows a dull sandy-brown rump, very similar to that of Black-faced, although contrasting with the well-marked mantle in a way that it never does on Black-faced).

Reed Bunting is warmer, more rufous-coloured and more boldly marked than the comparatively nondescript Black-faced. It always shows a prominent, usually creamy supercilium (see fig. 4), and its malar stripe is usually much more obvious a feature than the submoustachial stripe (the reverse applies on Black-faced). The tips of the greater and median coverts are usually of the same colour as the edges on Reed, so the wingbars are much less prominent. In addition, its bill is predominantly grey, lacking the two-tone appearance of that of Black-faced, the grey shawl is not significantly present, and the crown is much more rusty.

Both Reed and Pallas's Reed Buntings have different calls from that of Black-faced. The former gives a drawn-out 'tseeu', while Pallas's Reed has a sparrow-like 'chee-ulp' or 'chirrup'.

Chestnut Bunting, although regarded as a confusion species by Wallace (1980), is quite dissimilar. It is easily separated by its bright chestnut rump, its fairly obvious white or off-white eye-ring, its yellow underparts contrasting with an off-white throat, and its lack of white on the outer tail feathers.

Acknowledgments

I am particularly indebted to Paul Leader and Peter Kennerley for their extensive comments on all drafts of this paper and for considerable additional help. I should also like to thank Simon Aspinall, Trevor Boyer, Arnoud van den Berg, Alan Dean, Martin Eccles, the British Museum (Natural History), the Hancock Museum and the Liverpool Museum, Eric Morton and Reg Thorpe for their help; Trevor Boyer, Arnoud van den Berg and Paul Leader for their photographs; Martin Eccles for the black-and-white illustrations; Robin Prytherch for redrawing fig. 1 from my original map; and Ren Hathway for painting the colour plate (fig. 5).

Summary

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* is a potential vagrant to Britain and Ireland, but there are no detailed accounts of plumages of females and immatures in the readily available literature. This paper gives identification details and discusses the separation of Black-faced Bunting from other buntings.

References

Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D. 1983. *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.* Oxford.

BROAD, R. A., & ODDIE, W. E. 1980. Pallas's Reed Bunting: new to Britain and Ireland. *Brit. Birds* 73: 402-408.
CHENG, T.-H. 1987. *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China.* Science Press, Beijing.
DEMENTIEV, G. P., & GLADKOV, N. A. 1970. *Birds of the Soviet Union.* vol. 5. Israel Program for Scientific Translation, Jerusalem.
DE SCHAUENSEE, R. M. 1984. *The Birds of China.* Oxford.
LA TOUCHE, J. D. D. 1925-30. *Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.* London.
MIKKOLA, K. 1982. Report on rare birds in Finland in 1981. *Lintumies* 17: 161-174.
MORITZ, D. 1984. Die von 1976 bis 1982 auf Helgoland nachgewiesenen und in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland als Ausnahmeerscheinung bzw. Invasionsvögel geltenden Vogelarten. *Vogelwelt* 105: 60-70.
RIDDIFORD, N., & BROOME, T. 1983. Identification of first-winter Pallas's Reed Bunting. *Brit. Birds* 76: 174-182.
VAN REE, L., & VAN DEN BERG, A. B. 1987. Maskegors te Westenschouwen in November 1986. *Dutch Birding* 9: 108-113.
WALLACE, D. I. M. 1980. Possible future Palearctic passerine vagrants to Britain. *Brit. Birds* 73: 388-397.
WILD BIRD SOCIETY OF JAPAN. 1982. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan.* Tokyo.

Dr Colin Bradshaw, 9 Tynemouth Place, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 4BJ

Fieldwork action

BTO news

After a series of mild winters and early springs at the end of the 1980s, the population levels of many of our common birds were high. But 1991 featured a chilling February and the arrival of migrants in spring was remarkably slow. Participants in the BTO's Common Birds Census documented many decreases, several of large scale, between the breeding seasons of 1990 and 1991. Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* increased to its highest recorded level, whilst Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* increased for the third successive year, although the increase is tiny compared with the losses since 1967, and may well represent a temporary respite in a long-term decline. Whilst decreases for Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* and for Robin *Erithacus rubecula* are of minor importance in their long-term contexts, those for Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Blackbird *Turdus merula* and Song Thrush *T. philomelos* bring these species to their lowest levels in the 30-year history of the CBC. The same is true for the House Martin *Delichon urbica*, whose index value was first calculated in 1965.

Migrating warblers suffered from another year of poor summer rainfall in the western Sahel, decreasing the extent and the quality of suitable habitat during the 1990/91 winter, and from poor weather in Europe which delayed the spring migration and may have caused further mortality. Whatever the causes, 1991 was a very poor year for warblers and for most other long-distance migrants. We would have predicted a decrease for tits after such a cold winter, but Marsh *Parus palustris* and Willow Tits *P. montanus* both showed significant increases. Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* showed a substantial increase, and finally Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra*, which are too scarce to be measured on the CBC, were more widespread on plots than ever before. This simple measure indicates an exponential increase in numbers since 1965, reflecting the scale of irruptions rather than the rate of increase of the breeding population.

The full list of species accounts can be found in the report by John Marchant and Lynette Musty in *BTO News* no. 82, and it makes interesting reading. The CBC results are based on contributions from around 220 plots, and we are always on the lookout for people to take on new plots, and also to take part in our new Pilot Census Project, the aim of which is to test new methods of census technique other than the territory-mapping currently used for the CBC. If you would like more information, or would like to take part, do please contact Richard Gregory or John Marchant at BTO HQ (address below). PAUL GREEN

British Trust for Ornithology, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

Announcements



'The Carl Zeiss Award' *Carl Zeiss—Germany*, sponsor of the Rarities Committee, is offering an annual prize of *Carl Zeiss* 10×40 B/GAT Dialyt or 7×42 B/GAT binoculars to the photographer who supplies 'the most helpful, interesting and instructive' photograph of a rarity, taken in Britain. The photograph (a colour print, black-and-white print or transparency) must have been submitted (in the usual ways, via the relevant county bird recorder or directly to the Rarities Committee) with a description or set of descriptions which circulates to the Committee (or in time to circulate to the Committee with descriptions submitted by others). The winning photograph may be big, bright, sharp and beautiful, or be small, dull, fuzzy and admired only by the Committee, but it will have included details which helped to clinch the identification of the bird in question and it may well have added to ornithological knowledge of the species' identification, ageing or sexing criteria. The winning photograph will be picked by the Chairman of the Rarities Committee and the Managing Editor of *British Birds* from a short list selected during the year by the ten members of the Committee. The second Award will be made from among 1992 (and earlier) photographs of birds accepted for inclusion in the 1993 report. The winner will be announced in November 1993.

The aim of this award is to encourage the submission of potentially useful photographs to the Rarities Committee, for record assessment, as subsequent reference material, and for possible publication. Runners-up in the competition, and photographers whose rarity photographs have been selected for publication during the year (in the rarities report itself or in 'Seasonal reports'), will each receive a sew-on woven badge incorporating the Carl Zeiss Award logo, in recognition of their contributions to the rarity assessment process. Each year, the winning photograph will be published in *British Birds*. The winner will be able to choose which *Carl Zeiss* binoculars he or she would prefer as a prize.

Bird Photograph of the Year In 1993, this annual competition will again be sponsored jointly by Christopher Helm Publishers and HarperCollins Publishers. The rules will be the same as those this year (*Brit. Birds* 85: 45), but the photographs must have been taken during 1992. There will again be an additional prize, the Windrush Photos Award, for the highest-placed photograph taken in Britain and Ireland. The closing date is 31st January 1993. Please send your transparencies in early to avoid a last-minute administrative rush.

Bird Illustrator of the Year The closing date for this competition, which will again be sponsored by *Kowa* telescopes, is Monday 15th March 1993. Required dimensions of entries will be the same as for this year (see *Brit. Birds* 85: 45-46).

Bunting painting for sale. The painting by Ren Hathway on page 659 is for sale in a postal auction. Please follow exactly the same procedure as with each month's front-cover design (see January issue, page 46).

Binding your 'BB' Standard book-binding of *BB* issues costs £17.95 per volume. Use the form on the back of the index, and send yours in to arrive *before* one of the four annual deadlines: 15th January, 15th March, 1st July and 1st October. The binders' address is: London Journal Bindery, Roslin Road, London W8 3DH; telephone 081-752 0552.

Books in British BirdShop Fifteen books have been added to the list this month. Note the new special offers on Goodwin *Crows of the World* and Snow *The Cotingas*.

Volume 6 of *BWP* (the Old World warblers) has now been published, and orders can be accepted for volume 7 (the Old World flycatchers to shrikes).

For *all* your book orders, please use the British BirdShop order form on pages xiii & xiv.

Requests

Colour-marked birds: a reminder Although colour-marking may be used in purely local studies (e.g. of behaviour), the majority of studies of marked populations depend upon co-operation from all observers who sight the marked individuals. Only in exceptional instances do we publish separate requests on this subject (there are far too many such studies to include them all). If you see a bird marked in some way (other than with ordinary BTO rings), please report it as follows:

CORMORANTS Colour-ring sightings, Dr Robin Sellers, Rose Cottage, Ragnall Lane, Walkley Wood, Nailsworth, Gloucester GL6 0RU.

SWANS AND GEESE Colour-ring sightings, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT.

WADERS Wader Study Group, PO Box 247, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5SN.

GULLS Large gulls: Peter Rock, 32 Kersteman Road, Redlands, Bristol BS6 7BX; small gulls: J. J. Kew, 38 The Spinney, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TB.

ALL OTHER SPECIES Kevin Baker, BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.

Wing-tagged Hen Harriers The study of the movements and survival of Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* is still under way in Scotland and Wales. Over 200 sightings were reported in winter 1991/92, many observers quoting the request in *British Birds* (84: 518). Further nestlings were marked in summer 1992 with a single coloured tag on each wing. Should anyone see a tagged harrier, please note the date, location, colour of the tags (these can be different on each wing) and, if possible, any letters or numbers on the tags. Every report will be acknowledged and details of the bird's origin sent to the observer. Please send sightings to Brian Etheridge, RSPB, Etive House, Beechwood Park, Inverness IV2 3BW; phone Inverness (0463) 715000 (*note the change of address*).

'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB' Please order all your bird books by using the British BirdShop order forms which are included in BB each month (pages xi & xii this month, in the centre of the issue). All the profits received by *BB* go directly towards funding extra pages, extra photographs and the use of colour illustrations within *BB* itself. By using the POST FREE service provided by British BirdShop, we try to ensure that you not only receive the friendliest, quickest and most efficient mail-order bird-book service, but also help to improve the contents of *BB*, and hold down the subscription price, to everyone's benefit. Thank you for supporting us.

Diary dates

This list covers January to December 1993

8th-10th January BTO RINGING AND MIGRATION CONFERENCE. Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Details from Jacquie Clark, BTO, The National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.

29th-31st January YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB GARDEN BIRDWATCH. Details from YOC, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

31st January Closing date for entries for 'Bird Photograph of the Year'.

5th-7th March RSPB/IRISH WILDBIRD CONSERVANCY ALL-IRELAND CONFERENCE. The Everglades Hotel, Derry, Co. Londonderry. Details from RSPB, Northern Ireland Office, Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast BT8 4QT, Northern Ireland.

13th March SCOTTISH BIRDWATCHERS' CONFERENCE. The Station Hotel, Perth. Details

from Michael Murphy, SOC, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

15th March Closing date for entries for 'Bird Illustrator of the Year'.

15th March to 16th May YOC FLIGHTLINE. Migration phone-in. Details from YOC.

26th-28th March BOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE. 'Reproductive competition—extra-pair paternity and intraspecific brood parasitism.' Losehill Hall, Derbyshire. Details from Dr C. S. Lessells, Zoology Department, The University, Sheffield S10 2TN.

26th-28th March BTO/'BIRDING WORLD' CONFERENCE. Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Details from Paul Green, BTO.

2nd-4th April RSPB MEMBERS' WEEKEND. Lancaster University. Details from Events Department, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

17-18th April BOU SYMPOSIUM ON GOOSE ECOLOGY & BOU AGM. Details from Dr Stephen Percival, The Northumbrian Water Ecology Centre, The Science Complex, Sunderland University, Sunderland SR1 3SD.

25th April to 16th May SALE OF VINTAGE PRINTS BY ERIC HOSKING. Proceeds to the Eric Hosking Trust. Lavenham Wildlife Art Gallery, 70-71 High Street, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9PT.

May 'IN FOCUS' BIRDRACE. County birdwatch. In association with International Council for Bird Preservation and County Nature Conservation Trusts. Prize-giving Presentation at British Birdwatching Fair, Rutland Water. Details and entry forms from David Tomlinson, Windrush, Coles Lane, Brasted, Westerham, Kent TN16 1NN.

29th July to 13th August SOCIETY OF WILDLIFE ARTISTS' ANNUAL EXHIBITION (including display of winning entries in 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and 'The Richard Richardson Award' competitions). The Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission £2.00 (free to SWLA members).

3rd-5th September BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR. Rutland Water.

8th-10th September BOU AUTUMN MEETING.

3rd-5th December BTO ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM.

Mrs S. D. Cobban, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Notes



Bill colour of female Goldeneye In 'Mystery photographs' number 173 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 543-546), Martin S. Garner discussed the differences between female Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and Barrow's Goldeneye *B. islandica*. He stated that the yellow on the bill becomes duskier in summer. From experience with my own captive Goldeneyes and wild breeding birds, the yellow/orange coloration on the bill is lost as soon as the first egg is laid, becoming uniformly dark (see plate 313). Photographs in Bardarson (1986, *Birds of Iceland*) suggest that the same may be true of



313. Breeding female Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* with all-dark bill, Highland, June 1981 (*Keith Brockie*)

Barrow's Goldeneye, with bills of winter/spring females distinctly marked compared with the more uniform bills of mating ducks and all-dark bills of those with young. Unless direct comparison is available, assessment of the shape of an all-dark bill of one of the two species would be very subjective.

KEITH BROCKIE
Iolaire, Dron Farm, By Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5LH

Female Goldeneye with yellow bill The discussion of 'Mystery photograph' number 173 (*Brit. Birds* 84: 543-546) concerning the bill colour of Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and Barrow's Goldeneye *B. islandica* prompted me to record the following.

On 24th November 1990, at Abberton Reservoir, Essex, an adult female Goldeneye with an almost completely yellow bill was observed in the hide bay. The bird was in typical adult female plumage and the bill was of normal Goldeneye shape. It was, however, a pale yellow-orange colour, apart from a

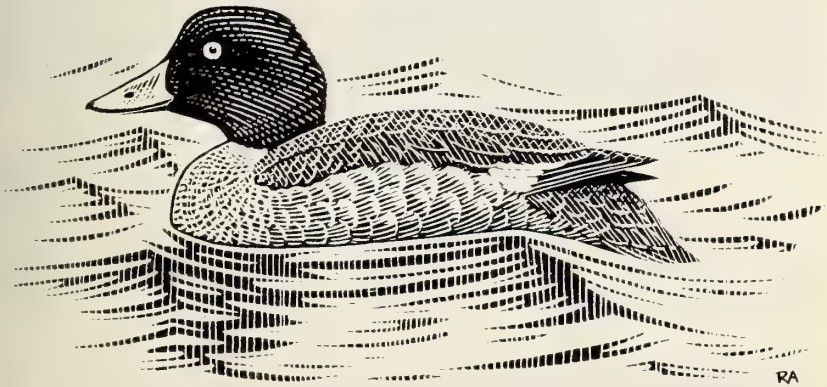


Fig. 1. Adult female Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* with yellow bill (see text), Essex, November 1990 (*Richard Allen*)

dusky grey area above and behind the nostril; the nail was small and black; and the edge of the upper and the whole of the lower mandible was black (see fig. 1, taken from field sketches).

RICHARD ALLEN
3 Dudley Road, Fingringhoe, Essex CO5 7DS

A similar female Goldeneye was recorded by Andrew H. J. Harrop in Northumberland in November 1982 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 534). EDS

Woodpigeon using moving lorry to evade hunting Goshawk On 27th October 1988, I was travelling on the motorway between Würzburg and Frankfurt, Germany, when suddenly a Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* flew over and then along the motorway lane, followed by a Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. The pigeon adjusted the height of its flight to that of the roof of a big lorry and flew close to the back of the cab. The lorry was moving in front of my car, and I could easily observe the whole event: it seemed that the pigeon used the slipstream formed behind the moving lorry to accelerate the speed of its escape from the raptor, which flew about 1.5-2.5 m behind it; it is possible that the pigeon's closeness to the lorry also prevented it from being attacked by the hawk. After 11 seconds, during which the raptor made two attempts at catching the pigeon, the Goshawk gave up and left the motorway. Several seconds later, the pigeon also flew away from the motorway. I was travelling at a constant speed of 110 kph, as was the lorry; during the pursuit, both birds flew at the same speed as the vehicles (i.e. 30.6 m/s).

KAZIMIERZ WALASZ
Department of Zoopsychology and Animal Ethology, Institute of Environmental Biology, Jagiellonian University, Karasia 6, 30-060 Kraków, Poland

Meadow Pipit evading Merlin by settling near human being L. J. Davenport's note (*Brit. Birds* 82: 179) reminded me of the following. On 31st October 1988, near Rhiw, Gwynedd, I was walking slowly along a narrow road, close to the hedgerow on my right-hand side, when a Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* came flying towards me very fast about 1 m above the road surface and closely pursued by a female Merlin *Falco columbarius*. When only about 2 m from me, the pipit turned sharply to its left and immediately disappeared into the lower part of the hedge. The Merlin, not slackening speed, banked sharply to her right and so just avoided flying into me, before disappearing over the opposite hedgerow. Like Mr Davenport, I got the impression that the pipit had seen my presence as a means of escaping from the falcon.

DAVID G. P. CHATFIELD
Rhiwenfa, Rhiw, near Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 8AE

Other recently published reports of similar behaviour related to Skylark *Alauda arvensis* pursued by Merlin (*Brit. Birds* 79: 592; 83: 427) and Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* pursued by a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (*Brit. Birds* 84: 109). Another instance is provided by David Fisher's Mongolian experience described on page 673. EDS

Mirror-fighting by Grey Wagtail in winter In the morning of 31st December 1987, as I drove slowly across a small bridge over a tiny stream near the new Royal Palace at Oued Sous, Agadir, southern Morocco, a winter-



314 & 315. Male Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* on car wing-mirror and beside windscreen, Morocco, December 1987 *(Arnoud B. van den Berg)*

plumaged male Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* came flying towards my car and tried to land on the bonnet and windows. The wagtail was quite tenacious and flew in pursuit, beside or above the car, for a distance of at least 150 m, calling a loud and repetitive, silvery 'tie tie tie tuu'; when the car was parked, it stopped calling. There were no insects on the car, and reflecting parts of the vehicle were too dirty to show the bird's image. Later, other cars passing the bridge were attacked in a similar fashion, and the wagtail continued even when people were walking around. Near the bridge, the narrow black-surfaced road changed into a muddy gravel track, and a number of cars (of different colours) were parked at this point. Between 09.30 and 11.00 hours, the wagtail remained at these cars, jumping from one car mirror to the other and

frequenting reflecting windows; it was only casually seen pecking insects from the ground. On 8th January 1988, the Grey Wagtail was still present at the same spot and showing the same fanatical behaviour.

It is peculiar that the furious attacks on cars were started before it was possible to see reflections. It is also surprising that moving cars suffered much heavier attacks than parked cars.

ARNOUD B. VAN DEN BERG
Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands

Similar behaviour by this species has been recorded in November-January, in Hampshire and Dorset (*Brit. Birds* 58: 222-223, 350; 84: 108-109, plates 81 & 82), but in these cases the wagtails flew at/attacked the wing mirrors of parked (or only slowly manoeuvring) cars; in Dorset, the wagtail seemed to be 'conditioned to regard a car with a wing mirror as embodying another wagtail'. Derek Goodwin has commented: 'The great puzzle is why do *only* a few individuals (of the many that must see their reflections in mirrors, hub caps, etc) of species involved get "hooked" on this behaviour?' EDS

Wing-spreading by foraging wheatears Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (*Brit. Birds* 81: 530-531) recorded an Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* using its spread wings as a canopy when feeding. This foraging technique appears to be used by various wheatear species when taking prey from the ground or from crevices in rocks. In eastern Arabia, I noted Pied *O. pleschanka*, Desert *O. deserti*, Red-tailed *O. xanthoprymna* and White-crowned Black Wheatears *O. leucopyga* using it, the last species especially commonly. The spread wings are held close to and parallel to the ground, sometimes with the primary tips appearing to touch it. The wings are not always drawn so far forward as Dr Sharrock described: they may be opened rather slowly and deliberately, and at times held open for a second or so; at other times, they are merely flicked open briefly, sometimes repeatedly. The ground is not always shaded by the spread wings: I have seen Desert and White-crowned Black Wheatears wing-spreading when facing into the sun, in shade, at dusk, and in overcast conditions. It seems likely, as Dr Sharrock suggested, that the technique serves to startle, and perhaps confuse and trap, potential prey. *BWP* (vol. 5) also notes the use of similar wing-spreading and wing-fanning techniques during foraging by Northern *O. oenanthe*, Black-eared *O. hispanica* and Black Wheatears *O. leucura*.

JOHN PALFREY
123/7 Grange Loan, Edinburgh EH9 2EA

Unusual nest sites of Dartford Warbler In May 1988, on a hillside near Alcoutim, Portugal, I observed about 30 pairs of Dartford Warblers *Sylvia undata*, each with a territory of approximately 1.25 ha composed of scrub (mainly several species of heather *Erica* with rock-rose *Cistus* and lavender *Lavandula*). Such territories are typical for this species in the Algarve. At one side of the scrub were pine woods and fields of low yellow lupins *Lupinus luteus*. One pair of warblers, whose territory adjoined the woods, had a nest with well-grown young in the 'tuft' of needles at the end of a branch of stone pine *Pinus pinea*, approximately 4 m above ground. Another pair, with its territory adjoining the fields, had a nest, also with well-grown young, suspended between two closely sown lupins, about 25 cm above ground. Neither nest was concealed, and the one near the

ground was particularly vulnerable to predation. In both cases, the nest was built within 2 m of the limit of the scrub zone, and neither territory appeared to extend outside the scrub other than for the actual nest site.

GLENIS A. VOWLES
Vale Bom, Odelouca, 8300 Silves, Portugal

Dr Bruce Campbell and James Ferguson-Lees (1972, *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests*) noted that this species' nests are 'Built in long heather, usually where it grows into gorse [*Ulex*], or inside a gorse bush, at heights from 30 cm to over 1 m; occasionally in other vegetation on commons; quite often near a track.' Where the species is commoner than in Britain, as it is in Portugal, a wider range of nest sites would be expected, but the site 4 m above ground level does seem remarkable. EDS

Arctic Warbler evading Hobby by settling near human beings Notes by M. E. Taylor and L. J. Davenport on a Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and a Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* using human beings as a means of evading Merlins *Falco columbarius* (*Brit. Birds* 79: 592; 82: 179) reminded me of a similar event that took place in the People's Republic of Mongolia. On 30th May 1985, while walking with eight other birdwatchers along the bank of a stream flowing through the middle of a large open, grassy valley, devoid of trees and bushes, I flushed a small passerine, which flew up into the air. Almost immediately, a Hobby *F. subbuteo* appeared above us and dived at the passerine, but missed. There then followed an aerial pursuit involving several fast turns and dives by the Hobby and similar action by the passerine, which managed to evade the falcon. To our surprise, the passerine then flew back towards us and landed on the ground between our feet: it was an Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*. The Hobby started to circle above our heads, apparently waiting for the warbler to take to the air again. More in jest than with any serious intent, I raised the heel of my left foot, thereby creating a piece of shaded cover for the warbler. The latter immediately ran beneath my foot and crouched under the arch of my shoe for several minutes. After circling for a short time, the Hobby lost interest and drifted away; as soon as it was some distance off, I raised my foot completely and the Arctic Warbler flew back into the cover of a ditch.

DAVID FISHER
56 Western Way, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DU

Other instances of similar behaviour are noted on page 670. EDS

Song by female Phylloscopus warblers: the influence of 'stress' As part of a comparative study of *Phylloscopus* warblers at Hydon Heath, Surrey, I endeavour to trap and ring all territorial male Chiffchaffs *P. collybita* by using a tape lure of normal song. On 28th March 1988, a male, first ringed in 1987 (when known to have been bigamous), returned to his previous year's primary territory (*sensu* Lawn 1982), and by 2nd April was singing in his former secondary territory; he subsequently sang daily in both territories. An unringed female was in the primary territory from 13th April, when copulation was observed. On 15th April, I attempted to retrap the male in this area in order to obtain biometric data. While erecting the net, I observed him singing and associating closely with what must have been the female (at this time of year,

all intruding males are actively driven from the territory: personal observations). The male was rapidly caught, and the tape switched off. During processing, I heard two phrases of typical Chiffchaff song close by and, on looking up, saw that these came from the female, still in the same bush as previously. No song was heard from this female for the remainder of the season. The pair subsequently nested successfully (though the male remained unmated in his secondary territory). This record complements that of Taylor (1976), who, while unknowingly standing within a metre of the nest, observed what was presumed to have been a female Chiffchaff break into a brief song phrase. Further, in a similar situation to that reported above, Lawn (1984) noted weak song by a female Willow Warbler *P. trochilus* in response to an attempt to tape-lure her mate, who appeared to spend much time away from his territory.

These three records suggest that the conditions leading to song by female *Phylloscopus* warblers may be described as 'stressful'. Female song is usually associated with old age and inherent hormonal changes; since, in at least two of the three cases cited, the females were capable of producing fertile eggs, however, this cause can safely be discounted. All three records are clearly linked by the 'stress' under which the female was placed. With Taylor's (1976) record, this was induced by the observer's proximity to the nest that was under construction. In Lawn's (1984) record and my own, stress factors included the sudden presence in the territory of an 'invisible male' (i.e. the tape lure), coupled with the frequent absence of the cock (a result either of polyterritoriality or of some unknown factor). An attempt at song may perhaps be the female's response to these perceived threats.

J. R. KING
Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS

REFERENCES

LAWN, M. R. 1982. Pairing systems and site tenacity of the Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* in southern England. *Ornis Scand.* 13: 193-199.

— 1984. Song of female Willow Warbler. *Brit. Birds* 77: 488.

TAYLOR, D. W. 1976. Presumed female Chiffchaff singing. *Brit. Birds* 69: 64-65.

Crow predation in recently cut set-aside land In June 1992, as part of a study on the comparative feeding ecology of the chicks of Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* on arable farmland, observations were made of Skylark nests in a field of one-year-old set-aside on an estate a few kilometres north of Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Other observations were made on other fields nearby.

The field had been used for growing wheat, and had been harvested in August 1991. Since then, it had been left uncultivated to give a 'naturally regenerated' vegetation cover, composed of volunteer wheat plants, and many species of broad-leaved and grass weeds.

One Skylark nest was found on 23rd June and contained five two-day-old chicks. The nest was visited twice daily to collect chick faecal material until 25th June. On that day, the field was cut to a height of about 12 cm in compliance with the regulations governing the management of set-aside land. The nestlings survived the cutting, but almost immediately a group of about 200

crows *Corvus* (mostly Rooks *C. frugilegus*) descended on the field. As a result, the nestlings were eaten by the crows, as were the contents of four nests of Pheasants *Phasianus colchicus*, each with 12-14 eggs, that had also been recorded in this field.

Three other Skylark pairs were observed to be carrying food items between one and three days before the cutting took place, although their nests had not been found. After the crow activity had subsided, no further feeding of chicks took place.

Several other Skylark nests were located in a grass field on a nearby estate, near Wimborne St Giles, Dorset. That field was cut for silage in June. During mid July, two Skylark nests were found that successfully fledged three and four chicks respectively. A further four nests were found later in the month, two containing one-day-old chicks, and two containing three or four eggs. On 20th July, the field was cut for silage down to a height of 5 cm. During cutting, all nestlings and eggs were destroyed by the cutting operation.

The loss of Skylark production from these later nesting attempts in intensively managed grass fields cut for silage was probably unavoidable. A delay in cutting of set-aside land, until mid August, however, could reduce the impact of such disturbances and would seem to be a sensible way forward, given that the stated management aims of set-aside land are to enhance wildlife potential, but it could exacerbate weed problems for farmers. Perhaps the potential of low-input cereal fields as wildlife habitat should be investigated, cut grass being poor habitat for Skylarks.

J. Grynderup Poulsen and N. W. Sotherton
The Farmland Ecology Unit, The Game Conservancy Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

A gynandromorphic House Sparrow A breeding population of House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* occupies the buildings and yard of an agricultural merchants at Ash, near Canterbury, Kent. Until 1988, I habitually fed these birds during my lunch hour, using their proximity to make general observations on behaviour. During 1985-88, this population twice contained leucistic individuals and also showed an apparently normal incidence of partial albinism. In June 1986, a puzzling individual appeared (fig. 1): when facing to the right, it showed the plumage features of a typical female, but occasional views of its left-side profile revealed distinctly male plumage characters on the head, throat, upper breast and median and lesser coverts; the bill appeared to be of the normal colour for a female House Sparrow, while the mantle showed a mixture of male and female coloration with a bias respectively towards each 'facial plumage side'. When viewed head-on, the sparrow displayed a bizarre division in facial plumage. The possibility that this may have been an immature male with a distorted pattern of moult can be discounted: the sparrow was present daily from early June to mid October, and developed its plumage fully to a recognisable male half and a female half, most noticeably so on the head and breast and wing-coverts.

The sparrow was unobtrusive and did not take part in group displays with male sparrows. In conflicts over food, it was seen to be submissive to both males and females, and it tended to feed on the margins of the flock. After its

disappearance in mid October, I puzzled for some time over the nature of this bird, until a search of the available literature revealed the existence of the condition known as gynandromorphism, an abnormal variation producing visually half-male and half-female characters. On dissection, such individuals are shown to have both an ovary and a testis, and may display a full, distinct division into two halves, one with male and the other with female features.

N. V. McCanch
Calf of Man Bird Observatory, c/o Juan Clague, Kionslieu, Plantation Hill, Port St Mary, Isle of Man

Dr J. D. Summers-Smith has commented as follows: 'This is an interesting record. Gynandromorphism is a special category of intersex (bird showing characters of both sexes) in which there is an almost equal bilateral division of the sexual characters. Intersexes are themselves rare. I know of only 28 published records for House Sparrows (*Bird Banding* 6: 11-15; *Ibis* 91: 304-306; *Bull. Br. Orn. Cl.* 81: 119-124; *Auk* 94: 377-380; *Mitt. zool. Mus. Berlin* 56: Suppl. Ann. Orn. 4, 29-31; *Rev. Ecol. Latinoam.* 1987, 1: 20-24). Only two of these are plumage gynandromorphs, one from the USA and one from Chile, with a further two skeletal gynandromorphs from the USA. In addition, there is a record from Sicily of a plumage gynandromorph of the Spanish Sparrow *P. hispaniolensis* (Iapichino & Massa, 1989, *The Birds of Sicily*). A female-plumaged House Sparrow that I saw in Guisborough, Cleveland, on 8th April 1972 had a black bill and was presumably an intersex, the blackening of the bill in the genus *Passer* being a male sexual character under hormonal control.' Eds

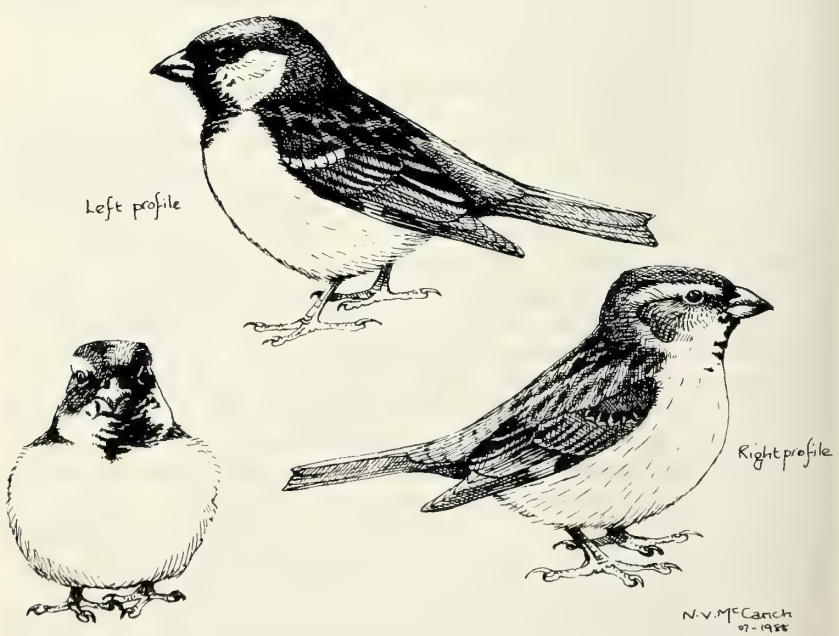


Fig. 1. Gynandromorphic House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* showing male characteristics on left-hand side and female characteristics on right-hand side, Kent, July 1988 (*N. V. McCanch*)



Studies of West Palearctic birds

191. Azores Bullfinch

Colin J. Bibby, Trevor D. Charlton and Jaime Ramos

The Azores comprises nine islands lying in mid Atlantic. Few landbirds breed and all are of Palearctic origin, with the avifauna bearing a strong similarity to the species lists of Madeira and the Canary Islands. High in the mountains on a remote corner of one island lives a rather odd Bullfinch: *Pyrrhula (pyrrhula) murina.*

Azores Bullfinches differ considerably from the other forms in western Europe. The sexes are virtually identical in colour, though males sometimes show the slightest suffusion of buffish-orange on the upper breast and ear-coverts. The general coloration is dark greyish-brown above and buffish below, similar to that of European females. The rump is buffish, rather than white, and not very distinct. Azores Bullfinches are quite large, weighing around 30 g (British Bullfinches average about 22 g in summer).

Such a distinct and isolated population could merit the rank of a separate species (Knox 1989) and no doubt would if the phylogenetic taxonomists had their way. Current taxonomy offers no hard-and-fast way of recognising when isolation and differentiation have gone far enough to justify treating island forms as separate species. Larger size and duller plumage are quite frequent trends among island birds compared with their continental counterparts.

Separate species or not, this is a very poorly known bird. In the nineteenth century it was a locally abundant pest of fruit orchards, with a bounty on its head. The major fruits grown were oranges, but this crop was largely abandoned as a result of disease in the late nineteenth century. The early collectors had no difficulty in obtaining specimens, but the Azores Bullfinch became rare and, after the 1920s, slipped into oblivion. The great explorers of the Atlantic islands, Bannerman & Bannerman (1966), failed to see it on visits in 1963 and 1964. It seemed that it could be close to extinction, although it was still known and remembered by local people at that time. In the late 1970s, a small population, estimated at 30-40 pairs, was rediscovered (Le Grand 1983, 1985). Even when it was abundant, it was confined in range to a small part of the largest island, São Miguel, and it was there that it was rediscovered.

In 1989, CJB and TDC visited the area at the east of São Miguel to make

the first formal estimate of population size and seek to assess any conservation needs. Locally, the birds were not difficult to find in and near laurel forests in the mountains, but the area is remarkably inaccessible. The vegetation is dense scrub 1-2 m high and would be almost impossible to walk through even if the ground was level. It is not quite thick enough to walk over. In fact it is mainly the precipitous mountain slopes which retain native scrub and have not been cleared by man. These are simply too steep and unstable to walk upon. By exploring the few tracks and stream beds which allowed access, we were able to conduct a series of point counts and estimated that there were about 370 Bullfinches in September, which would represent about 100 breeding pairs. The range appeared to encompass a fragment of native vegetation of about 500 ha. Within this area, the density of Bullfinches is quite high compared with numbers found in woodland in Britain.

Apart from their colour, the birds resemble our own Bullfinch in general behaviour. They are detected by their piping calls and can be very approachable. The individual photographed by TDC was approached to 7 m in the open with a 500-mm lens. It is relatively easy to watch them feeding, though they often take flights of several hundreds of metres. The nest has never been described, or even apparently seen, by an ornithologist. We know, however, from the presence of brood patches on females, and the appearance of juveniles, that they breed from June to August. This could allow time for two broods. Clutch and brood sizes are probably small because the proportion of juveniles in autumn appears to reach only about 50%.

The native forest cover of the Azores is greatly fragmented, but occurs more widely than the Bullfinch, both on São Miguel and on other islands. The Azores has 56 endemic plants, many of which occur in the native forest, so these areas are of considerable interest and value in their own right. Much has been lost to agriculture and, in more recent years, to afforestation with an exotic conifer, Japanese red cedar *Cryptomeria japonica*. A more alarming threat is the extent to which introduced plants have been able to invade the laurel forests. Two exotic tree species, lily-of-the-valley-tree *Clethra arborea* and cheesewood *Pittosporum undulatum*, are locally abundant. Disturbed ground is densely carpeted by Kahili ginger *Hedychium gardneranum*, which already covers huge areas and is likely to take over when the conifer forests are felled. Thus, the native vegetation is under great threat in spite of being in a reserve and there is little chance of its regaining previously lost ground.

In 1991, JR started an ecological study to enhance the meagre knowledge of the Azores Bullfinch. The critical question seemed to be why the bird is so localised. It appears that it does not breed in a patch of laurel forest very close to its known breeding range, though we have seen the species there in autumn. It is no longer a pest, but we do not yet know whether it any longer visits fruit orchards at all. Feeding observations, so far only in the summer, have shown a diet consisting of buds and seeds of weeds or fruits. The most remarkable feature has been the prevalence of introduced plants in the diet. Only in August, of the months studied so far, have endemic plants predominated. From May to July, the flowering heads of garden knotweed *Polygonum capitatum* are stripped voraciously. This is an introduced perennial herb of disturbed ground and is most abundant along streamsides and beside roads. It



316. Adult Azores Bullfinch *Pyrrhula (pyrrhula) murina*, Azores, July 1989 (*T. D. Charlton*)

seems very odd that a very rare bird confined to native forest should rely so heavily on an introduced weed so largely associated with human disturbance. At the moment, we can only speculate that Azores Bullfinches might be dependent on native species at a time of food scarcity in winter.

We hope that further study will assist the conservation of this very rare bird, whether it be a species or merely a distinct race. The government of the Azores has been quick in designating Special Protection Areas under the EC Birds Directive. The Bullfinch area is owned and managed by the Forestry Service, which has declared a reserve, and there is considerable local interest in furthering conservation.

The Azores in general is not well known to ornithologists. Apart from its Bullfinch, the archipelago holds more than half the West Palearctic population of Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* and enormous numbers of Cory's Shearwaters *Calonectris diomedea*, well in excess of those reported elsewhere in the North Atlantic. Madeiran Petrels *Oceanodroma castro*, Bulwer's Petrels *Bulweria bulwerii* and Little Shearwaters *Puffinus assimilis* also breed; and who knows what else?

Acknowledgment

Assistance with English names of plants was provided by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

References

BANNERMAN, D., & BANNERMAN, W. M. 1966. *The Birds of the Atlantic Islands*. Vol. 3. Edinburgh & London.

BIBBY, C. J., & CHARLTON, T. D. 1991. Observations on the San Miguel Bullfinch. *Açoreana* 7: 297-304.

KNOX, A. 1989. Proposed changes to the Voous list. *Brit. Birds* 82: 119-120.

LE GRAND, G. 1983. Der wiederentdeckte Azorengimpel. *Wir und die Vögel* 15(1): 37-38.

——, 1985. O Priolo, a ave mais interessante de São Miguel. *Açoreana* 6: 195-211.

Dr Colin J. Bibby and Trevor D. Charlton, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL
Jaime Ramos, Edward Grey Institute, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS

Letters

English names of birds The absurd suggestion that Willow Ptarmigan should be the 'formal English name' of the Red Grouse *Lagopus (l.) scoticus* can only bring the BOU and *British Birds* into public ridicule, if not contempt.

The Red Grouse is confined to Britain and Ireland, where it is of considerable economic, social and culinary importance. It has nothing to do with willows *Salix* and, if it is to be called ptarmigan, then *Turdus merula* should be called the Black Thrush.

This form was lumped with *Lagopus lagopus* by ornithologists who treated all closely related forms as conspecific. Modern thinking differs. The form *scoticus* differs from all races of *L. lagopus* both in plumage and in 'behavioural ecology' (*BWP*). Acceptance of Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* as a full species is irrational if *Lagopus scoticus* is treated as a subspecies. JOHN PARKER

Clavering House, Oxborough, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE33 9BL

The Red Grouse has a special significance for *British Birds*, so we admit to bias. Perhaps more than that of any other bird on the British List, the name change recommended by the BOU (Knox 1992, *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* 6th edn) conflicts with current usage by huge numbers of the general public. We believe that the 'man in the street' could never be persuaded to call this species Willow Ptarmigan. Mike Everett's cartoon (*Brit. Birds* 85: 327) said it all. We shall be retaining the name Red Grouse.

The taxonomic question raised by John Parker is a matter which we hope will be pursued by the BOU Records Committee. There must be some merit in the restoration of specific status to the form *scoticus*, but the race *variegatus*, restricted to the islands of western Norway off Trondheimsfjord, is intermediate between *scoticus* and the nominate race, though closer to the latter (Vaurie, 1965, *The Birds of the Palearctic Fauna: non-passeriformes*). EDS

Identification of juvenile Verreaux's Eagle—a correction Dr A. J. Helbig included two colour photographs (plates 160 & 161) of a purported juvenile Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* in his note on the identification of

immatures of that species (*Brit. Birds* 84: 287-289). The eagle shown in the plates is immediately and obviously not a Verreaux's Eagle. Immature Verreaux's Eagles are characterised by the following features, none of which is evidenced by the bird in Dr Helbig's photographs: relatively small-headed, long-necked, large-shouldered, long-legged and 'tightly feathered' appearance; dark iris; relatively large, pale bill with black tip; uniform black ear-coverts; black throat and breast, with pale, V-shaped tips to the feathers; chestnut mantle and lower nape; and remiges very dark, almost black, contrasting strongly with the pale-tipped upperwing-coverts which form an almost white patch at the shoulder. Gargett (1990) provides colour photographs and

317. Captive juvenile (eight-month-old) Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*, South Africa, March 1987 (*R. A. G. Davies*)





318. Captive juvenile (eight-month-old) Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*, South Africa, March 1987 (*R. A. G. Davies*)

detailed descriptions of young Verreaux's Eagles. The two photographs accompanying this letter (plates 317 & 318) are of a captive immature Verreaux's Eagle from South Africa and serve to illustrate these features.

Dr Helbig's photographs, by contrast, show an eagle that is relatively large-headed, short-necked, small-shouldered, short-legged and 'loosely feathered'. In addition, it has a pale iris; relatively small, mainly dark bill; streaky light brown ear-coverts; dark brown throat and breast, with long pale streaks; light brown nape; brown remiges that do not contrast with the upperwing-coverts; and no pale shoulder patch. Indeed, any resemblance to an immature Verreaux's Eagle is superficial and based on its pale 'leggings' and crown. The leggings of this bird, however, appear mainly white, with some rufous feathers and a few narrow dark brown streaks. The leggings of immature Verreaux's Eagles differ in being grey with extensive black smudges.

What raptor, then, is depicted in Dr Helbig's photographs? It is obviously an *Aquila* eagle, and the combination of its pale iris and heavily streaked underparts is diagnostic of an adult Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* (probably a female) of one of the two breeding African races *A. r. rapax* or *A. r. belisarius*; it is probably the former, as the nominate race is replaced by the latter only farther north in Kenya than where this bird was photographed (Brown *et al.* 1982).

D. G. Allan and R. A. G. Davies
Southern African Bird Atlas Project, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa
Mammal Research Institute, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Dr A. J. Helbig has replied as follows: 'After reconsidering the identification of the eagle depicted on plates 160 & 161 of my earlier note (*Brit. Birds* 84: 287-289) in the light of Allan &

Davies's comments and given further recent field experience with Verreaux's and Tawny Eagles in Africa, I agree that the bird is not a Verreaux's Eagle. Part of the confusion probably resulted from the extreme amount of white shown by this eagle, especially in flight, on the belly, wing-coverts, back, rump and base of the primaries. This was strongly reminiscent of the white lower back, rump and bases of the primaries of adult Verreaux's Eagle, and seemed to indicate an advanced juvenile plumage of that species. Verreaux's Eagle, however, even in such a transitional plumage, can be ruled out by the structural and plumage characters and iris colour, as mentioned by Allan & Davies.

'Furthermore, the bird in question was seriously harassed by two Tawny Eagles (*A. rapax*, of the typical pale brown variety), whose territory it had apparently intruded upon. With respect to plumage, the two brown Tawny Eagles looked so different from the bird they harassed that all three of them being conspecific seemed out of the question. Having studied more Tawny Eagles in Africa, however, I now realise that plumages of this species are extremely variable. The bird in plates 160 & 161 shows some resemblance to the 'streaky plumaged female' Tawny Eagle depicted by Steyn (1982, plate 7, fig. 12), except for the extensive white plumage parts (see above). While this may be compatible with Tawny Eagle, I feel that plumage variation of *A. rapax* needs to be more fully documented in order to gain a better understanding of the field identification in such problem cases. In this respect, I hope that the photographs published with my earlier note can be of some help. Good illustrations of juvenile Verreaux's Eagle have been published recently (Gargett 1990, plates 25 & 31). I apologise for the error and thank Allan & Davies for their correction.' EDS

REFERENCES

BROWN, L. H., URBAN, E. K., & NEWMAN, K. 1982. *The Birds of Africa.* vol. 1. London.
GARGETT, V. 1990. *The Black Eagle.* Johannesburg.
STEYN, P. 1982. *Birds of Prey of Southern Africa.* Cape Town, Johannesburg.

Blackcaps and noise We should like to make this short reply to the comments by Messrs Wallace & Hume and Edwards (*Brit. Birds* 84: 395-396).

The shotgun experiments we carried out (*Brit. Birds* 84: 68-69) in order to test Dr Radford's assumption that Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla* react severely to sudden noise (*Brit. Birds* 80: 249) were not 'thoughtless'. Indeed, collecting this information was well justified. In Germany, for instance, the Blackcap's breeding season is concurrent with the deer (roebuck *Capreolus capreolus*) hunting season (from mid May). Roebucks, for example, are shot mainly from elevated hides which are placed everywhere in wooded areas, often less than 100 m from each other. In total, over 200,000 roebucks are hunted per year. This, along with hunting of fox *Vulpes vulpes* and wild boar *Sus scrofa* during the breeding season, means that thousands of Blackcap nests, and nests of many other songbirds, are regularly exposed to gun-shot disturbance, even at close range. Having read Dr Radford's assumption and being aware of the high nest losses—up to 50% in the case of Blackcaps, as well as other songbirds—it was reasonable to investigate the possibility that shotgun noise affects breeding. Fortunately, the tests we have made showed only moderate and short-term reactions. Thus, shooting disturbances do not generally appear to affect Blackcaps (nor, hopefully, other songbirds) breeding. This view is supported by the fact that Blackcaps are among those species which breed in the noisiest possible places, such as in hedges between the lanes of motorways and in the area of steam-operated pile-drivers where brooding individuals are exposed both to terrible noise and to vibration. P. BERTHOLD and U. QUERNER
Max-Planck-Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie, Vogelwarte, Schloss Moeggingen, D(W)-7760 Radolfzell, Germany

Cloaca-pecking by tits With reference to the note on cloaca-pecking by Great Tit *Parus major* by Dr A. P. Radford (*Brit. Birds* 85: 465) and the editorial request for further information on the subject, may I refer you to my earlier note (*Brit. Birds* 44: 20) concerning this behaviour by a pair of Blue Tits *P. caeruleus* in April 1950.

GEOFFREY BOYLE
Strawberry Lee, White Street, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 4LW

News and comment

Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of 'British Birds'

Raptor news It has been a record year! For the first time in 200 years, over 100 young Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* were reared in Scotland, with the all-time total passing 1,000 since breeding resumed in 1954. When, we wonder, did over 100 young Red Kites *Milvus milvus* last fly from British nests? It happened in '92, with a record 93 fledged in Wales and the exciting news of first successes for the reintroduced birds in England and Scotland—nine and one young respectively. Seven young White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* flew this year—a good boost for the restored Scottish population.

News from Wales In July, the Burry Inlet was at last declared a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Birds Directive, while in June four more areas in Wales are to become ESAs—Environmentally Sensitive Areas—where traditional, non-intensive forms of agriculture will maintain an existing high wildlife interest. These are Anglesey, the Radnor Hills, the Clwydian Hills and the Preseli District of Pembrokeshire. These developments could be good news for Choughs *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire and for upland birds in Radnorshire and Clwyd. The Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales and the Lleyn peninsula are already ESAs, with increased payments announced in the former area for managing heather moorland and broad-leaved woodland. The ESA scheme, along with 'Tir Cymen', the farm stewardship scheme of the Countryside Council for Wales, spells hope for the rapidly dwindling populations of breeding waders in Wales—numbers of Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus*, Snipes *Gallinago gallinago* and Redshanks *Tringa totanus* have crashed in recent years. In 1991, an RSPB survey found only 180 pairs of Redshanks in the whole Principality, with fewer than 20 pairs at inland sites. (*Contributed by Dr Stephanie Tyler*)

New DG at WWT Our congratulations to Myrfyn Owen on his appointment (August) as the new Director General of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. With 25 years of wildfowl research and conservation work behind him, Dr Owen needs little introduction from us—we wish him well!

Changes at IWC August saw the departure of Micheal O'Briain as Director of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy. In June, the Conservancy's Council elected Brendan Twomey as its new Chairman.

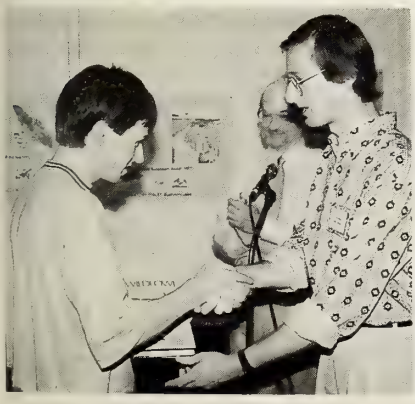
Two sad losses June was also a sad month in Ireland. On 7th, Hockley Clarke died in Co. Cork. His connections with Ireland went back to the late 1940s, and indeed for many years he ran a hotel there specialising in birdwatching holidays. To most of us, perhaps, he was better known as the author of many popular works (especially, perhaps, *Bird Watching*, published in 1968) and as the founder of the Surbiton and District Bird Watching Society. Thirteen days later, in Belfast, C. Douglas Deane passed away. Irish ornithology will somehow never seem quite the same without 'Jimmy', as he was invariably known. He was a prolific writer, his best-known work being the *Handbook of the Birds of Northern Ireland* (1954). Having started as a pupil assistant at the Ulster Museum in 1932, he went on to become Keeper of Natural History in 1951 and was Deputy Director from 1957 to 1977. Our deepest sympathies go to the families of both.

BIY '92 Not only does the quality-in-depth of entries for Bird Illustrator of the Year continue to increase year by year, to the delight of the judges, but the success of the annual reception at The Mall Galleries is also reflected in the volume of requests for attendance and the smiles on the faces of the sponsors (plates 319-321). In both 1991 and 1992, the winning entries were also displayed at The British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water in September, so must have been seen by several thousand people.



319. John Gale (right), winner of the title Bird Illustrator of the Year, receives his cheque, engraved salver and *Kowa* telescope from Mr J. Nishi, Manager, *Kowa* Europe GmbH, with Richard Tilt of Pyser-SGI Ltd looking on (*Steve Hickey/Pyser*)

320 & 321. Left-hand plate, Antony S. Disley (left), winner of The Richard Richardson Award, receives his cheque and inscribed book from Chris Rose (Bird Illustrator of the Year in 1986), with Robert Gillmor (competition judge and President of the Society of Wildlife Artists) in background; right-hand plate, Richard Fowling (left), winner of the PJC Award, receives the trophy from David Cook, London, September 1992 (*Steve Hickey/Pyser*)





'Lindisfarne's Birds' Birdwatchers visiting north Northumberland now have an updated and expanded guide detailing all 294 species so far recorded on Holy Island and the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. The second edition of *Lindisfarne's Birds*, published by Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club, describes the remote history of this highly fruitful area, including early medieval farmers dining on Great Auks *Alca impennis*, the contribution of 18th-century hunter-naturalists (with many first records of rarities coming from the barrels of their guns), and the creation of the reserve, which regularly holds upwards of 50,000 waders and wildfowl in winter. Compiled by Ian Kerr, it also has chapters on the seasonal attractions for the birdwatcher and on the reserve's most famous species, the pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*. Following new research by Dr Steve Percival, it questions the conventional wisdom that all are of the tiny Svalbard breeding population. The 76-page guide updates and expands the more modest first edition, published in 1984 and long unavailable. The new guide is available at £3.65 (incl. p&p) from NTBC, West Farm, Kirkheaton, Capheaton, Northumberland NE19 2DQ.

'Babblers and Logrunners' Craig Robson and Clive Byers are working on a new book, provisionally entitled *Babblers and Logrunners of the World: an identification guide*, which deals with the identification of all babbler and logrunner species, as well as all the distinctive subspecies. Apart from the more obvious genera, the following will provisionally be included: *Orthonyx*, *Androphobus*, *Psophodes*, *Cinclosoma*, *Ptilorrhoa*, *Melampitta*, *Ifrita*, all the African *Trichastoma* babblers, *Kakamega*, *Ptyrticus*, *Garritornis*, *Pomatostomus*, *Neomixis*, *Chamaea*, the parrotbills (Panurinae), *Lioptilus*, *Parophasma*, *Phyllanthus*, *Geomalia*, *Malia*, *Horizorhinus*, *Oxylabes* and *Mystacornis*. The author/artist and artist would welcome any information on babblers and log-runners, particularly photographs (in the wild or otherwise), recordings or transcriptions of vocalisations, details of breeding biology and behaviour, habitat requirements, status and diet. All contributions that are used will be acknowledged. Readers are invited to send any information to Craig Robson, 63 Stafford Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3BD.

Bird names article Steven Gregory asks us to inform readers that he can supply a transcript of 'English names of West Palearctic birds', which appeared in the June issue (85: 263-290), on any PC (IBM compatible) format floppy disc. Write to S. M. S. Gregory, 35 Monarch Road, Northampton NN2 6EH.

HB SSSI In early September, The Forestry Authority announced that Haldon Forest, Devon, had become a 1,013-ha Site of Special Scientific Interest. The 70-year-old forest is the first man-planted British SSSI and is very important for its birds of prey and butterflies. Well known for its breeding Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus*, it also has nesting Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus*, Buzzards *Buteo buteo* and Hobbies *Falco subbuteo*; about 80 pairs of Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus*—3% of the British population—also breed. A Powergen-supported butterfly-management area beneath a 400-kV electricity transmission line holds no fewer than 35 species of butterfly, including High Brown Fritillary *Argynnis adippe*, Marsh Fritillary *Eurodryas aurinia* and Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*.

Book award *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology*, edited by Michael Brooke and Tim Birkhead and published by Cambridge University Press, has won this year's McColvin Medal, awarded annually by the Library Association to 'the most outstanding reference book published in the UK in the preceding year.'

Wheelchair birdwatching That very English and always browsable bimonthly magazine, *The Countryman*, includes a short article on 'No barriers for disabled bird-watchers' in its October/November 1992 issue. For a copy (£1.95) or subscription details, write to The Countryman, Link House Magazines, FREEPOST S403, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK42 2YB.

With 'BB' to Thailand The relaxed trip with the small, friendly group, led by Thailand's top birdwatchers (Phil Round and Kamol Komolphalin): there are still spaces for any one, two or three weeks during 21st February to 16th March 1993. Ring Sunbird for details: Sandy (0767) 682969.

Drawings of rare breeding birds Artists may care to note that line-drawings are included within the report on 'Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom' every year, and that *British Birds* always welcomes the submission of drawings of appropriate species for possible selection. Sizes should be those specified for the Bird Illustrator of the Year competition: 16.35 cm wide × 6.9 cm deep, or 8.1 cm wide × 6.0 cm deep, for publication at two-thirds of those sizes. Please send drawings to the *BB* Editorial Office.

January issue Whereas all other issues of *BB* are despatched at the end of the month prior to the cover date, the January issue will, as usual, not be posted until mid January, owing to our (and our printers') holidays and the inevitable end-of-the-year rush of late re-subscriptions.

Spotted at Filey, then spotted in 'BB' Our own pages sported the latest printers' boob, unnoticed by our Advertisement Manager, but spotted by eagle-eyed subscriber G. Carr. October's page xvii reported Craig Clay-Thomas as the 'finder of the speckled warbler' at Filey. Perhaps Sandra Barnes needs to wear her speckles when she does the proof-reading? Anyway, it has given the Clay-Thomases' Ravine Cottage Guest House, phone Scarborough (0723) 514656, a bit of extra publicity. Note that they offer special rates for *BB* readers.

New Recorder Ian J. Andrews, 15 The Parsonage, Musselburgh, Midlothian EH45 8RQ, has taken over from P. R. Gordon and Chris G. McGuigan as Recorder for East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian.

Monthly marathon

Sponsored by



The gull (plate 214) was named as:

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*	(76%)
Great Black-headed Gull *L. ichthyaetus*	(7%)
Herring Gull *L. argentatus*	(6%)
Audouin's Gull *L. audouinii*	(5%)

with a few votes each for Mediterranean Gull *L. melanocephalus*, Grey-headed Gull *L. cirrocephalus*, Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

It was a Ring-billed Gull, photographed in Lancashire in February 1991 by Malcolm Rains.

Once again, all the leading competitors got the answer right, so Graham Catley, Roy Hargreaves, Hannu Jännes, Peter Lansdown, Pekka J. Nikander and Dave Nurney all move on to 17-in-a-row sequences, and Dr S. K. Armstrong to a run of 16 in a row. It is proving very difficult to fool these experts, one of whom will eventually win a SUNBIRD holiday of his or her choice in Africa, Asia or North America.

For a free SUNBIRD brochure, write to PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF; or telephone Sandy (0767) 682969.

322. 'Monthly marathon' (twenty-ninth stage in fifth contest or first or second in sixth contest: photograph number 78). Identify the species. *Read the rules on pages 31-32 in the January issue*, then send in your answer *on a postcard* to Monthly Marathon, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, to arrive by 15th January 1993



Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan

This summary covers the period 16th October to 12th November 1992
These are unchecked reports, not authenticated records

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* Two, Cape Clear Island (Co. Cork), 7th November.
Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* North Slob Wildfowl Reserve (Co. Wexford), 12th October to at least early November.
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* Male, Lough Beg (Co. Londonderry), 24th October to 1st November.
Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* Tingwall (Shetland), 22nd October.
White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Rogerstown Estuary (Co. Dublin), 24th-28th October; Bann Estuary (Co. Londonderry), 31st October.
Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Rogerstown Estuary, mid October to at least 28th October.
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* Brue Estuary (Somerset), 31st October to 8th November.
Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Adult, Ballyferris (Co. Down), 8th November.
Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* Aldeburgh Marshes (Suffolk), 30th October to 11th November.
Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* Truro (Cornwall), 9th November.
Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* St Mary's (Isles of Scilly), 22nd October; Finnstown (Orkney), 23rd October.
Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* Plymouth (Devon), 19th-26th October.
Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Nine in October, including three at Flamborough Head (Humberside) on 17th.
Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus* Copeland Bird Observatory (Co. Down), 21st October (sixth for Northern Ireland and one of only seven in Ireland in 1992, all in October); 40 in England and Scotland.
Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus* Kenidjack Valley (Cornwall), 7th to at least 12th November.

For the latest, up-to-date news, phone 'Rare Bird News' on 0881-888 111
(25p/min cheap rate; 39p/min other times; incl. VAT)
We are grateful to Rare Bird News for supplying information for this news feature

Corrections

VOLUME 74

464 REPORT ON RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1980. Statistics for Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* should read 5, 1, 1 (not 4, 1, 1).

VOLUME 79

561 REPORT ON RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1985. Statistics for White-winged Lark *Melanocorypha leucoptera* should read 6, 1, 0 (not 4, 1, 0).

VOLUME 84

543 MONTHLY MARATHON. The Yellowhammer (plate 207, page 400) was photographed in North Lincolnshire (not Western Isles).

VOLUME 85

205 SEASONAL REPORTS. Plate 106 '*pallida*' should read '*caligata*'.
390 A LIFE FOR ORNITHOLOGY: STANLEY CRAMP (1913-1987). Line 9 'Dickens's' should read 'George Eliot's'.
446 EUROPEAN NEWS. The entry for Portugal under Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* should appear under Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*.
624 Table 1. 'Teydean Chaffinch' should read 'Teydean Finch'.

'The Famous Grouse' Scotch whisky Christmas puzzle

Sponsored by



Go from LARK to TERN, via CROW, SWAN, DUCK and GULL, by changing just one letter at each stage, to make a new four-letter English word. The same word must not be used more than once.

The four words indicated by * * * * (instead of _ _ _ _) are the names of British bird species.

List your sequence on a postcard, *underlining each of the four bird species*, together with your name and address, and send it, to arrive before 15th January 1993, to Christmas Puzzle, British Birds, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

The three contestants whose correct entries are drawn from those received by the closing date will each receive a bottle of *The Famous Grouse* Scotch whisky.

L A R K
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
* * * *
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
C R O W
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
* * * *
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
S W A N
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
* * * *
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
D U C K
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
G U L L
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
* * * *
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
T E R N

Cygnus Wildlife

1993 programme of escorted birdwatching holidays

Destinations January-June include:

Northern India £1390 ● Cameroon £2100 ● Sri Lanka £1490
Cuba £1890 ● Tiger Special £1560 ● Bulgaria £850 ● Nepal £2390
Czechoslovakia £835 ● Texas £1190 ● Hungary £880
Majorca £570 ● Poland £830 ● Northern Spain £1590
Assam, Sikkim & Darjeeling £1950 ● Morocco £990 ● Bhulan £2750
Austria £670 ● Sabah £1790 ● Camargue £850

Other departures later in the year include Arizona & California, Washington State, Gambia, Argentina, Ecuador & Galapagos Islands, Kenya, and Australia.

Tour groups have a maximum of 18 participants, are escorted by experienced leaders and we cater for all levels of expertise. If you would like further information about any of these holidays, we will be delighted to receive your enquiry at the following address:

ABTA 62948

CYGNUS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS,
57 FORE STREET, KINGSBRIDGE, DEVON TQ7 1PG
Telephone 0548 856178 Fax: 0548 857537

(D208)

BIRDNET

An Ideal Christmas Gift to last the whole year through

The comprehensive information service for the birdwatcher for just £30 per year.

Notification of all the major rarities.

All the latest rare bird news for the cost of a LOCAL CALL.

Payment for rare bird information
Phone 0298 73052.

If you like to stay in touch with the latest rare bird news even when you are out, then you can.

As agents for Mercury COMMUNICATIONS we also offer a range of pagers giving national coverage at competitive prices.

PAGER RENTALS PER MONTH — Exclusive of V.A.T.
NUMERIC £15.00 **FULL MESSAGE £25.00**

If you prefer to buy rather than rent. Monthly network charges.
NUMERIC £10.00 **FULL MESSAGE £16.00**

If you would like any further information about MERCURY PAGERS or BIRDNET then write to:

BIRDNET LTD, 5 Trenchard Drive, Harpur Hill, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9JY
Or phone: 0298 25513 (D231)

BEAT THE PRICE RISE THIS CHRISTMAS!

LIMITED QUANTITIES REMAINING OF PRE STERLING DEVALUATION STOCK
PHONE *NOW* FOR BEST PRICE ON *ANY* ITEM

LCE

SCOPES

KOWA

TSN-601 Body (45° angle)	£219
TSN-602 Body (straight)	£199
20 x WA	£74
27 x (New) WA	£109
TSN-1 Body (45° angle)	£367
TSN-2 Body (straight)	£367
TSN-3 Body (45° angle)	£738
TSN-4 Body (straight)	£738
20 x WA	£127
30 x WA	£162
25 x	£80
40 x	£80
60 x	£138
77 x	£125
20-60x Zoom	£196
Skua Case (Stay on, waterproof)	£39.95
Standard Case	£28.95
TSN/TS-600 Photoadaptor (800mm)	£150

BAUSCH & LOMB

Elite 77mm Scope Body	£375
Elite 20-60x Zoom	£198
Elite 20x Eyepiece	£149

NIKON

Fieldscope straight body c/w case	£299
Fieldscope angled body c/w case	£349
EDII straight body	£549
EDII angled body	£599
15x	£79.95
30x	£79.95
20-45x Zoom	£169
NEW! 30x WA	£169
Spotting Scope c/w 20x, case	£129
Spotting Scope c/w 15-45 Zoom, case	£289

OPTOLYTH

TBS 80 Body	£390
TBG 80 Body	£390
20 x W	£77
20 x WW	£122
30 x	£77
30 x WW	£135
40 x	£77
22-60 x Zoom Eyepiece	£159
TBS/G 80 Fluorite Body	£549

OPTICRON

HR 60 Str c/w 22 x W & Case	£179
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 22 x & Case	£189
HR 60 Str Rubb c/w 20-60 x & Case	£229
HR 60 Angled c/w 22 x W & Case	£219.95
HR 60 Angled c/w 20-60 x & Case	£249.95
HR 80 Body 30 x	£269
Classic IF 60 c/w 18-40 x	£168
Classic IF 76 c/w 22-47 x	£206
Piccolo c/w 15-60 x	£194
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 20-60 x Zoom	£399
Piccolo ED Mark II c/w 22 x W	£355
20-60x HR Zoom Eyepiece	£85
22 x WA HR Eyepiece	£34
25 x HR Eyepiece	£31
40 x HR Eyepiece	£31
HR Photoadaptor Variable	£33

Universal mounts, hide clamps etc, also stocked.

We would like to wish all British Bird readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WARNING: BEWARE OF 'GREY' IMPORTS

MAY WE REMIND READERS THAT *ALL* OUR PRODUCTS ARE OFFICIAL UK IMPORTED STOCK - AND AS SUCH CARRY A *VALID MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY*

BINOS

ZEISS BINOCULARS

SPECIAL PRICES

	RRP	ONLY
Notarem 8 x 32 BGA	~~£169.95~~	£159.00
Notarem 10 x 40 BGA	£219.95	£189.00

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

LEICA Trinovid

8 x 20 BC (leather)	£219
8 x 20 BCA (rubber)	£269
10 x 24 BC (leather)	£269
10 x 25 BCA (rubber)	£298
NEW! 8 x 32 BA	£649
7 x 42 BA	£698
8 x 42 BA	£698
10 x 42 BA	£698

All normally available in Black or Green finish.

ZEISS WEST

8 x 20 B	£249
10 x 25 B	£269
8 x 20 BGA	£315
8 x 20 Monocular	£139
8 x 30 BGAT* P	£529
7 x 42 BGAT* P	£639
8 x 56 BGAT* P	£699
10 x 40 BGAT* P	£639
4 x 12B Design Selection	**£295**
8 x 20B Design Selection (New Style)	£295
10 x 25B Design Selection (New Style)	£319
20 x 60 BGAT*P to order	£ Phone

OPTOLYTH

Alpin 8 x 30 BGA	£258
Alpin 8 x 40 BGA	£279
Alpin 10 x 40 BGA	£283
Alpin 10 x 50 BGA	£315
Alpin 12 x 50 BGA	£320
Royal 9 x 63 BGA one only	£485

SWAROVSKI

8 x 20B Roof Prism Compact	£215
8 x 30 SVWB Roof Prism	£365
10 x 25 Roof Prism Compact	£240
NEW! 10 x 42 SLC Roof Prism	£569

SWIFT

Audubon 8.5 x 44 B	£239
Audubon 7 x 35 Roof Prism ONE ONLY	£269
Sea Hawk 7 x 50 BIF GA	£199

BAUSCH & LOMB

Elite 8 x 42 BGA 'P'	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA 'P'	£649
Elite 10 x 42 BGA	£629

ANGENIEUX

8 x 24 F Compact	£249

OPTICRON

Discovery 8 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
Discovery 10 x 42 Roof Prism	£99.95
8 x 30 DCF Roof Prism	£141
MCF 8 x 24 Compact	£81
MCF 10 x 24 Compact	£83
Dioptron 8 x 32 B	£117
Dioptron 7 x 42 B	£121
Dioptron 8 x 42 B	£122
Dioptron 10 x 42 B	£125
Dioptron 10 x 50 B	£135
HR 8 x 32 MC	£152
HR 7 x 42 MC	£155
HR 8 x 42 MC	£157
HR 10 x 42 MC	£162
HR 10 x 50 MC	£178
Minerva 8 x 30	£169
Minerva 8 x 40	£175
Minerva 10 x 40	£179
Observer 20 x 80	£409
7 x 50 Waterproof c/w Compass	£239
7 x 50 BIF Waterproof	£183

NIKON

7 x 20 CF III	£79.95
9 x 25 CF III	£99.95
10 x 25 CF III	£119.95
8 x 20 CF	£134
10 x 25 CF	£149
8 x 23 CF waterproof	£189
10 x 25 CF waterproof	£199
8 x 40 Sporting II	£129
7 x 50 Sporting II	£139
10 x 50 Sporting II	£149
8 x 30 ECF wide angle	£269

FOR THE LOWEST PRICES & BEST ADVICE

SECONDHAND BINOS

Swift Trilyte Mk III 10 x 40	£79
Pentax 8 x 40 WA	£89
Zeiss West 15 x 60 BGAT*	£849
Zeiss West 10 x 40 BGAT	£499
Pentax 9 x 30 SMC	£69
Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44	£149
Pentax 7 x 20 compact roof prism	£49
Zeiss Dialyt 10 x 40B	£299
Zeiss Notarem 8 x 32 BGA (new shop demo)	£149
Zeiss West 8 x 20B	£179

NEW TRIPODS

Slik D2	£72.95
Slik D3	£89.95
Velbon D-600	£69.95
Velbon D-700	£79.95

Manfrotto models from stock – Phone for Best Price. Scope Clamps, Monopods etc, also from stock

PRICE PROMISE -
We will endeavour to match or beat any currently advertised price for an official UK import stock item

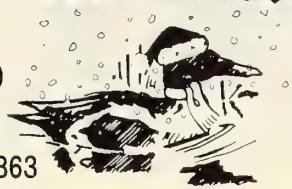
The South's Premier Binocular & Scope Centre

London Camera Exchange (SOUTHAMPTON)

10 HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0DH

(below the Bargate, opposite Owen & Owen)
Opening hours: Mon to Sat, 9 am-5.30 pm **0703 221597/335363**

RSPB Member Discount on Most Items!



As true specialists in the optical field, we pride ourselves on providing the complete service to the birdwatcher.

- Genuinely friendly and expert advice from birding enthusiasts.
- Huge range of binos and scopes in stock.
- Part exchange welcomed.
- Exclusive repair service for most optical equipment.
- Wide range of optical accessories, tripods also carried.

FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE

- 14-day Home Trial Scheme on any item – exchange or refund if not satisfied (also applies to personal callers)
- Normally same day despatch – Trakback Insured Parcel Post, £3 extra for most items, £5 for heaviest packages.
- Major credit cards accepted.

VISA D205



RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS

A COMPLETELY NEW EXPERIENCE

Escorted tours with English speaking ornithologists visiting areas of the former Soviet Union never before possible.

May 4 Boreal Forest of Russia

May 5 Great Caucasus Mountains

May 11 Boreal Forest of Russia

May 19 Ussuriland & Amur Delta

May 20 Kazakhstan & Altai

June 5 Taimyr & Central Siberia

June 14 Amur Delta, Sakhalin & Kamchatka

June 15 Altai & Mongolia

June 16 Tuva, Central Asia & Lake Baikal

June 17 The Best of the Siberian Arctic

July 15 & August 1 The Best of the Tien Shan Mountains

Independent birding trips for small groups — you've dreamed about them, now it's possible!

Relict & Ross's Gulls, Ibisbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, five species of Snowcock, Pander's Ground Jay — need we go on!

Contact Paul Dukes

RUSSIAN NATURE TOURS
57 Fore Street
Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1PG
Tel: 0548 856437 Fax: (0548) 857537

(D186)

ABTA 62948

NEW FROM CORVUS PUBLICATIONS

The Ideal Christmas Gift for the Birdwatcher

THE ORNITHOLOGIST'S YEARBOOK

keeps clearly and accurately all your year's birdwatching records including

YEARLIST
DAILY AND MONTHLY RECORDS
FIELD TRIP RECORDS
MIGRANT ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES
MONTHLY AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS
& MUCH MORE

£5·49 (inc. postage & packing)

Please send a cheque or postal order payable to CORVUS PUBLICATIONS to Corvus Publications, Langdown House, Eythorne, Nr. Dover, Kent, CT15 4AA.

CLUBS: 10% discount on orders of 10 or more

IMMEDIATE DESPATCH

(D223)

.OOK INTO A RARE BIRD ALERT PAGER ...

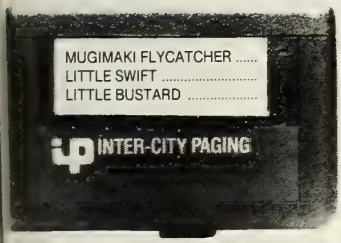
MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER DAYLIGHT

SEE WHY IT'S THE BEST SERVICE ...



PROVEN RELIABLE COMPREHENSIVE in every way

RARE BIRD ALERT BIRD PAGERS



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS FOR YOURSELF:

The BEST news ser

There's no longer any need to wonde news is; WHEN you're going to find out 'll spend findi

Simply read all the news, as it ha message pager, including updates, o ews.

CALL 0603 767799 NOW SAVE £££s For A Special Deal

It's reliable, comprehensive and extremely cost effective, with no nasty surprises e in.

For an info pack with a sample print-out of a days messages and an order f call **Dick Filby** on 0603 767799 or call Inter-City, **Free**, and ask for Rare Bird Alert

Inter-City Paging Ltd. Marsh House, 500 Montagu Road, Edmonton, London N9 0UR. **Tel: 0800 246 246**

(D211)

INTER-CITY PAGING

TWICKERS WORLD

The natural world

ARGENTINE WILDLIFE TOUR

Accompanied by naturalist/ornithologist Tony Pym, visit Argentina's most important wildlife sites from the penguin colony at Trelew to the Altiplano.

Departs 26th Feburary 1993 for 17 days. Price from £2,199.

TELEPHONE FOR YOUR COPY OF OUR NEW 1993 NATURAL WORLD BROCHURE for our range of escorted and unescorted tours.



22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW
Telephone 081-892 8164
24 hour brochure service 081-892 7851
Fax 081-892 8061 ABTA No 60340

(D217)



PAY LESS FOR

RARE BIRD NEWS

0881 888 111

FAST RELIABLE 24 HOUR NEWS

UP TO 30% CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER BIRDLINE

HOTLINE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS

0426 923 923

CALLS COST 25p/MIN CHEAP RATE 39p/MIN ALL OTHER TIMES

BIRDING SOUTH WEST

0891 884 500

RARITY, MIGRANT AND SEA-WATCHING NEWS. HOTLINE **0426 923 923**

ALL 0891 CALLS COST 36p/MIN CHEAP RATE 48p/MIN PEAK/STD

(D181)

For great birding...

Sunbirder

Birding package holidays

...the only way to go!

BHARATPUR 19-28 JAN FROM **£1050**

Leader: Paul Holt

EILAT 7-14/21 MARCH FROM **£475**

Leaders: Killian Mullarney and Steve Rooke

HONG KONG 4-14 APRIL FROM **£1150**

Leaders: David Fisher and Richard Lewthwaite

BEIDAIHE 1-17/24 MAY FROM **£1250**

Leaders: Paul Holt and Martin Williams

Details from Sunbird, PO Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DF. Tel: 0767-682969.

(Please specify which event you are interested in).

(D225)

FOCALPOINT FIELDSHOWS

THE BINOCULAR & TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

BECAUSE OF THE RECENT DEVALUATION OF STERLING THE FOLLOWING ARE **ALL** SUBJECT TO PRICE INCREASES OF 5%-18%

BAUSCH & LOMB
HABICHT
KOWA
LEICA
NIKON
OPTICRON
OPTOLYTH

All other manufacturers are at least considering increases.

Phone us now — we hold large stocks of most at pre-increase prices.

NEW PRODUCTS all in stock

Nikon 45° scopes
Nikon 30xWA e/p
Leica 8x32 BA



DIRECTIONS

M56 Jct 10 take A559 towards Northwich for 1 mile to the Birch & Bottle. Turn right into Bentleys Farm Lane, we are on the left after ½ mile.

FOCALPOINT

Unit 8, Marbury House Farm, Bentleys Farm Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4QW

Tel: 0925-730399 Fax: 0606-892207 (D219)

Classified Advertisements

All advertisements must be **PREPAID** and sent to
British Birds Advertising
Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham,
Bedford MK44 3NJ.
Telephone 0621 815085
Fax 0621 819130

Rates

(These prices do not include VAT)
£2.50 a line—average of 6 words
£8.50 a centimetre—
min. 2 centimetres
Box Number counts as 2 words is
£1.00 extra per insertion
Replies should be sent to the
above address

Series Discounts

3 insertions less 10%
6 insertions less 15%
12 insertions less 20%

Copy Date
January issue
December 5th
Please post early
to avoid disappointment

British Birds

is most grateful to those companies which support the magazine by their sponsorship:

ZEISS Germany — *Sponsors of the Rarities Committee*

Sponsors of 'Monthly marathon' — SUNBIRD

Christopher Helm *and* HarperCollins — *Sponsors of 'Bird Photograph of the Year'*

Sponsors of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' — Kowa telescopes

Seasons Greetings to all our Advertisers

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

ENGLAND

CLEY. Attractive house in village, four bedrooms, large garden, garage, c.h. Available all year. Details from Mrs E. Album, 47 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2. Tel: 071-431 2942. (BB266)

CLEY. 3 Quality cottages (sleep 4, 6 and 6 + 2). Quiet. Comfortable. Excellent value. Brochure: (0353) 740770. (BB237)

EXMOOR for country and animal lovers. Farmhouse accommodation, bed and breakfast and evening meal, or self-catering cottage. Details from: French, Brendon Barton, Lynton, Devon. Tel: 059 87 201. (BB213)

WEYMOUTH. 'Birchfields Hotel'. Close to Radipole/ Lodmoor/Portland & The Fleet. Ideal Winter/Spring breaks, local info'. Parties welcome. Details phone 0305 773255. (BB235)

WEST SUSSEX, Pagham Harbour/Selsey, Beautiful Georgian Farmhouse, with purpose built B&B accommodation. All facilities provided. Warm, friendly atmosphere, children welcome. Open all year. Tel: 0243 602790. (BB170)

ISLES OF SCILLY, Mincarlo Guest House, St. Mary's. Superbly situated in own grounds overlooking the harbour. Write to: Colin Duncan or Tel: 0720 22513. (BB208)

CLEY NATURE RESERVE 1 mile
Small guest house offers you warm welcome. B&B and optional evening meal. Colour TV, tea-making facilities, all private facilities and central heating in all rooms. Parking facilities and sorry, no smoking.
IDEAL FOR BIRDWATCHERS
THE FLINTSTONES, WIVETON, HOLT.
NORFOLK 0263 740337 (BB243)

FARM COTTAGES between Lindisfarne Reserve and The Farnes. Comfortable and well equipped. Sorry no pets. Brochure: Mrs J. Sutherland, Ross Farm, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7EN. Tel: 0668 213336. (BB312)

SCOTLAND

ABERNETHY & CAIRNGORM — up to Deluxe 5 crowns, 1993 brochure from Strathspey Self Catering, Grant Road, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3LA. Tel: 0479 2939. (BB232)

SPEY VALLEY. Beautiful secluded informal hotel, 2 miles from village of Carrbridge. Home cooking, full central heating. All rooms en-suite. Perfect base for birdwatchers and walkers. Discount available for parties. Terms from £180.00 per week DB&B. Brochure from Mrs Y. Holland, The Old Manse Hotel, Duthil, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire. Tel: 0479 84278. (BB269)

SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, SHETLAND. Spectacular clifftop location. Seabird colonies, seawatching, passage migrants, all around. Selfcatering cottage sleeps 5, central heating, newly furnished, fully equipped except linen. Road to door. Virkie Pool, Grutness, white-sand beaches, Restaurant/Bar, Airport, all within 2½ miles. Also unfurnished Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for long let. Details from Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0XS. 03873 72240. (BB087)
THE HOTEL, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP. Demi-pension (Private bath) from £50.00. Details, brochures, map (bird list on request). Tel: 09512 316. (BB311)

WALES

RED KITE COUNTRY. Tregaron — Guest house standing in 22 acres, overlooking the Cambrian Mountains and on the doorstep of the Cors Caron Nature Reserve. Central for Dinas and Ynys-hir RSPB reserves. Parties welcome. WTB — 3 crowns. For brochure, phone Margaret Cutter, 0974 298965 or 298905. (BB248)

OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA, CAIRNS, JULATTEN. At Kingfisher Park we provide accommodation and camping facilities in a rainforest sanctuary for native birds and animals. We are central to a variety of habitats and cater for the interests and enthusiasms of birdwatchers and naturalists. Write now for a free birdlist to Kingfisher Park, P.O. Box 3, Julatten, Queensland, Australia 4871. (BB221)
CAMARGUE — TOWN HOUSE. Sleeps 10. £150-£250 pw (0624) 676151. Fx: 662787. (BB122)
HEART OF CAMARGUE. Secluded well equipped farm cottage. Mas d'Auphan, Le Sambuc, I 3200 ARLES, France (01033) 90972041. (BB279)

IBERIAN WILDLIFE

All-inclusive wildlife trips, birdwatching tours and rambling holidays on the Spanish Peninsula. Algarve (Apr), Pyrenees (May), Gredos (Oct) and Picos de Europa (May-Oct).

Self-catering & B/B also available in the Picos.

All interests catered for in small, friendly groups.

Full colour brochure available:

SPANTREK LTD.

(0457) 836250 (24hrs)
79 Egmont Street, MOSSLEY, Lancs OL5 9NF
(D227)

PAJINKA WILDERNESS LODGE

PAJINKA would like to invite you to tribal Injinoo land. This area is widely regarded as a birding destination of international consequence having access to some 1,000 square kilometries of land. 205 species have been recorded to date in a variety of habitats in close proximity to each other and the lodge. Mangroves, rainforest, heathlands, swamps, open schlerophyll and vine thickets are some of the more readily discernible attributes of this country providing profitable ecotones for the twitcher. Two major and totally different catchments lie within the area. Superimposed on this diverse foundation, PAJINKA sports 17 specialities, some from Niugini migrating for breeding during the wet season feast —others being resident.

Special Green Season package rates at the northernmost lodge on the Australian continent — Pajinka — apply from Nov 1 until March 31, 1993. 7 nights or more; A$120 per person EVERY NIGHT.

For bookings and information: PH. + 61 70 313 988 or FAX. + 61 70 313 966 or write to: PO Box 7757, Cairns, Nth Qld, 4870 Australia. (BB310)

FRANCE Midi Pyrénées, Andorra, Carmargue, Aveyron & Tarn gorges. Self-catering rural farmhouse holidays. Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Griffon Vulture etc. Butterflies, orchids. Sleeps 6-8. From £150 inclusive p.w. Tel: 0737 353945. (BB317)

BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS

HONK KONG. Superb birding September to May — variety of accommodation — trips into China. Richard Lewthwaite, 2 Villa Paloma, Shuen Wan, Tai Po NT, Hong Kong. Phone/Fax: (HK) 665 8190. (BB228)

'HIGH ISLAND'
UPPER TEXAS COAST U.S.A.

Just opened. Bed and breakfast for groups of 4 or 8. 'Birder's Haven, P.O. 309, High Island, Texas 77623. Tel: 409 286 5362 or 214 824 5390. (BB242)

COSTA RICA

More birds than the whole of North America! Tailor-made birding trips for individuals and small groups. Brochures:



BIRDWATCH COSTA RICA
APARTADO 7911 - 100B SAN JOSE
COSTA RICA FAX: +506-281573

(BB108)

SRI LANKA

Combine serious bird watching (21 endemic species) with a wonderful holiday in our superb Island. For tailormade trips (individuals and groups) contact the experienced specialists:

A BAUR & CO (TRAVEL) LTD
PO BOX 11, COLOMBO 1
FAX NO. 0094-1-448493 (BB256)

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS, CAR HIRE, SEA TRAVEL, PACKAGE HOLIDAYS GROUPS & EXPEDITIONS..WORLDWIDE

Travel News

Europe	£69	Africa	£99
Middle East	£145	N. America	£149
Caribbean	£289	Asia	£319
C&S America	£389	Aus/NZ	£499

★ New for '93 ★
Donana Flydrive
Brochure available

ANTARCTICA

ANTARCTICA AND THE FALKLANDS 93/4
Advance register now for only £50pp
Departures 17 December, 2 & 18 January

Ask for leaflet detailing our services

0272-613000
OR
DICK FILBY
0603-767-757

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, BANK ROAD, BRISTOL BS15 2LX U.K.
ABTA/IATA

WILDWINGS

(BB298)



Special 4-day tour
to the
Spanish Steppes
February 4 to 7 1993
Around La Serena in Extremadura now are large flocks of Great & Little Bustard, 25,000 Cranes, Stone Curlew and a variety of raptors.

Tour led by Carlos Martin of the Soc. Española de Ornitologia

£440 fully inclusive

For details of this & other 1993 tours-

BRANTA HOLIDAYS
071-635 5812
7 Wingfield St, London SE15 4LN

(D224)

SPAIN

Mancha & Central Sierras
Pyrenees & Ebro Delta
May and June 1993

RECOMMENDED BY BRITISH BIRDS

Tom Gullick lives in Spain. He will show you the rarest birds in the most beautiful and remote areas. Expect to see 5 different eagles, 3 vultures, 2 bustards, 2 sandgrouse, White-headed Duck, Gallinule, Eagle Owl, Black Stork, with many ducks, waders and passerines on migration. Also Lamergeier, Wall-creeper, Dupont's Lark, Alpine Accentor, Black Woodpecker, Snow-finch, Citril, Capercaillie on Pyrenees & Ebro Delta tour. 8 day tours **3-4 persons only**, by Range Rover. 20 years and over 1,600 days of field experience in Spain.

Tom Gullick, c/o Mrs M. Parker,
5 Tile Barn Close, Farnborough,
Hants. GU14 8LS.
Tel: 0252 547213.

(BB272)

JUST FLIGHTS
DIVISION OF NICK'S TRAVEL
ABTA 97237

100 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0QS

'FLIGHTS FOR BIRDWATCHERS'
EXPERTS IN LOW COST AIRFARES - WORLDWIDE.
DISCOUNT CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

SPECIALIST ADVISER - ANDY HOWES
0533 881318 (EVES)

ALWAYS RING US LAST (BB204)

Please mention
BRITISH BIRDS
when replying to advertisements

NEW FOR 1993
A New Concept in Budget Birding Holidays
FULLY-ESCORTED WEEKS FOR
UNDER FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS!

We are now able to offer self-catering options to a 'new' and exciting area of Southeastern Spain at bargain prices.

★ Wetlands, Mountains, Coasts — excellent, varied lists.
★ Experienced English leader.
★ Quality accommodation, with choice of self-catering or very reasonable meals.
★ Small, relaxed groups.
★ Varied and flexible birding arrangements.
★ Several departures.

Write for details: Calandra Holiday, P.O. Box 89, Ashford, Kent TN24 9TE, or call 0233 628547.

***Also fully-inclusive tours** — options available — details on request.*

(BB300)

BIRDWATCHING TOURS

BIRDING PELEE? . . . We run tours. Local guides, local knowledge, big lists. From Toronto or Pelee. Write FLORA AND FAUNA FIELDTOURS, 232 Belair Dr. Bolton, Ont. Canada L7E 1Z7. (BB306)

SEAWATCHING HOLIDAYS

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS: seabirding and whale watching trips year-round from Monterey, California. Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels, Alcids and Jaegers. Humpback and Blue whales; Aug to Nov. Gray whales: Jan. Schedule available from: Debra L. Shearwater, PO Box 1445, Dept BB, Soquel, CA 95073, USA. Tel: 408-688-1990. (BB011)

BIRD INFORMATION

The BEST service

SAVE £ £ £ s

and get all the news, more efficiently and make the most of winter daylight

Rare Bird Alert Bird Pagers

The proven, comprehensive service

For full info. call 0800 246 246 of call Dick Filby on 0603 767799

(BB299)

COURSES

STOCKHOLM ISLAND off the Pembrokeshire Coast. Courses in Art and Photography. Thousands of Puffins, Manx-shearwaters, Guillemots, Razorbills and other birds. Full board accommodation. Send SAE to Dept BB, Dyfed Wildlife Trust, 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1NF (00437) 765462. (BB285)

SITUATIONS VACANT

SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

Assistant Wardens

Places on Employment Action Scheme for bird ringers especially (some training available) but also for competent birders or ecologists interested in ecological survey. Must be 6 months registered unemployed. Assistance with accommodation. **Please phone 0304 617341** in the first instance.

(BB315)

BIRD REPORT

BIRDS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 1991, £3.00 inc p&p from Mr G. Ellis, 2 Tracey Close, Beeston, Nottingham. (BB275)

ISLES OF SCILLY BIRD REPORT 1991 enlarged in colour £4.00 post paid. Peter Robinson, Riviera House, Parade, St Mary's, IOS, TR21 0LP. (BB314)

JERSEY BIRD REPORT 1991. 52pp. First issue. £3.50 post free. From Ian Buxton, Le Petit Huquet, La Rue Du Hucquet, Saint Martin, Jersey. (BB278)

PERSONAL

CHRISTIAN SINGLES. Social activities. Friendship. Fellowship groups. Holidays. CFF Dept B124, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (BB252)

CB RADIOS

BIRDING CB SPECIALISTS. SAE for details/price list to Omega, 43 Hemlington Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9AG, 0642 595845. (BB286)

BOOKS

'BIRD BOOKS'. Good secondhand books bought and sold. Free catalogue from, and offers to Briant Books, 94 Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NJ. Tel: 0829 51804. (BB281)

BIRD BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD. Send SAE to Dr J. Tierney, 'Hawkridge', Nether Padley, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HQ. Tel: 0433 630137. (BB247)

BIRDWATCHING IN CRETE 2nd Ed. £3.75 inc. p&p. Stephanie Coghlan, 25 Thorpe Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD5 8TA. (BB270)

FINE BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY, Natural History purchased & for sale. Also field sports & other rural subjects. Catalogues issued. David A.H. Grayling, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3JP (Tel: 09315-282). (BB066)

BIRD BOOKS: Out-of-print, uncommon and rare. Quarterly catalogue. Peacock Books, Box 2024, Littleton, Mass. 01460, USA. (BB318)

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP

Britain's leading ornithological booksellers

where you can find our comprehensive range of new and secondhand books and reports on birds and natural history, including all new titles as they are published.

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Mail order catalogue available on request

THE BIRD & WILDLIFE BOOKSHOP
2-4 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly,
London SW1Y 6DS
Tel: 071-287 1407

(BB297)

Best Days with British Birds





COMPILED AND EDITED BY
Malcolm Ogilvie
& Stuart Winter

'Best Days with British Birds' Especially written as the ideal Christmas present for any birdwatcher. The 34 authors* have all waived their royalties in favour of *British Birds*.

Buy your copies now, using the British BirdShop order form on page xiii & xiv and you will receive them POST FREE and with an £8.00 reduction, exclusive to *BB* subscribers.

*Norman Arlott, Hilary Burn, John Busby, Bruce Campbell, Richard Chandler, David Cottridge, Paul Dukes, David Fisher, Steve Gantlett, David Glue, Peter Grant, Gavin Haig, Andrew Harrop, Peter Holden, Peter J. Hopkin, David Hunt, Clive Hutchinson, Bernard King, Ian Lewington, Steve Madge, Chris Mead, Guy Mountfort, Bill Oddie, Malcolm Ogilvie, John Phillips, Ian Prestt, Robin Prytherch, Tim Sharrock, Norman Sills, Don Taylor, Laurel Tucker, Keith Vinicombe, Steve Webb, and Stuart Winter.

(D230)



The original
BIRDWATCHER'S LOGBOOK

The most concise way to record your observations. Monthly, annual and life columns for 762 species, plus 159 diary pages. Send £6.45 inclusive p/p to:
Coxton Publications, Eastwood, Beverley Rd, Walkington, Beverley, N. Humberside HU17 8RP
(BB302)

FOR SALE

..Zeiss Kowa Opticron Bausch & Lomb
Adlerblick Swift Optolyth etc.

The Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Suppliers of quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Mail order, or callers welcome. Open 6 days 9–6. Repair service on the premises.

T&L Optical Instruments
26 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY
Tel. 061-429 8002
(BB263)

Wildlife Computing **Computer Packages For Birdwatchers**



Bird Recorder for Windows exciting new program for Microsoft Windows has all the facilities required to keep your Bird Records from around the World. Includes facilities to print your own checklists. Orders taken now for December 31st despatch, price £85.

Bird Recorder user friendly system for IBM compatibles running DOS. Not just a "tick" list but a complete system for recording your birding trips and sightings, automatically keeps up to 255 lists. Price complete with documentation and World Species Database £55, Western Palearctic species version £40. European butterfly database for use with Bird Recorder £10.

Prices include UK postage, add £3 postage to Europe, £7 rest of world. Telephone payment by ACCESS, Mastercard, VISA and Eurocard. Postal payment by credit card or cheques payable to WCPS. State disk size (5.25 or 3.5 inch).

Wildlife Computing Services, 6 Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt, COLCHESTER CO7 6SJ. Tel. 0206-298345 or 0850-658966. Please allow up to 14 days for delivery. Send SAE for complete information.

(D218)

WALKERS

Are the largest optical dealer on the Yorks coast.
Binoculars – telescopes – video cameras – lenses – tripods – SLRs – compacts

*** ZEISS * KOWA * BUSHNELL * LEITZ * SWIFT * RUSSIAN * PENTAX * BAUSCH & LOMB * MINOLTA * OPTOLYTH * ADLERBLICK**

PRACTIKA "DISCOVERER"
15x - 60x zoom telescope
incl. photo adapter
SRP £199.00
OUR PRICE **£150.00**

RUSSIAN

7 x 35	£27
8 x 30	£27
8 x 40	£30
10 x 50	£30
12 x 40	£33
20 x 60	£59

ZEISS PRICES HELD UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

7 x 42	£599
10 x 40	£599

NEW SWAROVSKI

7 x 42	£528
10 x 42	£571

THEY ARE SUPER

WALKERS LTD 70 ST THOMAS ST (D220)
SCARBOROUGH YO11 1DY
0723 365024 FAX 0723 363334

AVIAN PHOTOS
Dave Cottridge, Tim Loseby, David Tipling

SLIDE DUPLICATE SERVICE

Slide Duplicates £2.00 each + 30p p&p. Available now. Many species from around the world in different aspects of plumage and behaviour. Includes comprehensive collection of British birds.

RARE BIRDS IN BRITAIN

6" x 4" colour prints £1.50 each + 30p p&p. Prints of many of the latest rarities.

Send large S.A.E. for catalogues of both slide duplicates and rare bird prints to: David Tipling, 99 Noah's Ark, Kemsing Park, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PD.
Tel: 0732 63486 (BB274)

BB WITH INDICES. Bound vols 39-49 £135; vols 52-67 £195. Unbound vols 68-85 £10 per vol, largely mint. Tel: 0252 714955. (BB313)

WEST GLAMORGAN BREEDING ATLAS. Softback £7.45. Hardback £11.45 inc. p&p. Cheques to West Glamorgan Atlas, Dr. D.K. Thomas, 12 Manselfield Road, Murton, Swansea SA3 3AR. (BB316)

BIRD JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS SUPPLIED. (BB. Bird study, County Reports, etc.), David Morgan, Whitmore, Umberleigh, Devon. (BB276)

CARRY your tripod securely and in comfort with a Podstrap — £8.50 inc p&p from Vital Equipment, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AT. (BB283)

BRITISH BIRDS, 1947-1957 unbound, for sale. Phone 0992 39956. (BB304)

BRITISH BIRDS. Non-standard Birding vols. 1-14, 24-30, 39-43, 45-60. Unbound 61-75, other parts — list on request. Offers 010353-1372998. (BB305)

BRITISH BIRDS unbound, 1960-65; 1969-77; 1980-84. 3 copies missing. South Wales. SAE details. Box No. 103, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. (BB309)

GIANT BINOCULARS 11 x 80 £379; 15 x 80 £414; 20 x 80 £449; 25 x 100 £998. Osborne Optics 091-2638826. (BB301)

MONGRAPHS, Greenshanks, Redstarts, Yellow Wagtail, Badgers, offers. Optolyth 70 x zoom scope with case £130. Tel: 0228 74231. (BB308)

NIKON, ED Fieldscope, Mk I, £350. Camera adaptors Contax/Yashica & Nikon F. £100. Tel: Farnham (0252) 713926. (BB303)

TIBET AND ITS BIRDS by Vaurie. Handbook of the Birds of India (10 vols) by Ali and Ripley. The Birds of China by De Schauensee (hard back). Synopsis of the Avifauna of China by Cheng Tso-Hsin. All offers to Box No. 102, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ. (BB307)

WEATHER-SHIELD STAY ON



THE SCOPE CASES EVEN WHEN VIEWING, waterproof, protects against accidental damage, guaranteed three years. Available for:

OPTOLYTH TBG80 and TBS80	£37.95
KOWA TSN1, 2, 3 and 4	£34.95
KOWA TS601 and TS602	£34.95
OPTICRON 60mm h/r rubber covered	£29.95
NIKON spotting scope 60mm	£29.95

ORDER YOURS NOW ON 0604/39674 FOR SAME DAY DESPATCH

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

OTPICRON PICCOLO 60mm telescope	£99.95
Eyepiece 22x W/A **£31.00;** 15-45x zoom	£56.00
ZEISS 7 x 42 BGA or 10 x 40 BGA	£595.00
ZEISS 8 x 20 B Mini	£239.00
ZEISS 10 x 25 B Mini	£259.00
OPTICRON 8 x 42 H/R or 10 x 42 H/R	£139.95
SWIFT TRILYTE 8 x 42 BGA or 10 x 42	£139.95
OPTOLYTH ALPIN 8 x 40 BGA or 10 x 40 BGA	£245.00
HAWK HIDE CLAMP (new) Mk3	£37.95
TRIPOD CARRYING STRAPS	£6.95
EYEPIECE POUCH (weather)	£5.95

Please add £2.50 p & ins. Phone your orders Visa/Access or post cheque. E.C. Thursday 1.30.

ALL THE TOP MAKES OF BINOCULARS AND TELESCOPES IN STOCK, CALLERS WELCOME.

A.R. HAWKINS N'PTON **LTD**
DEPT BB, 9 MAREFAIR
NORTHAMPTON NN1 1SR
TELEPHONE 0604/39674

(D22

ILLUSTRATION: RAY SMITH

Overhead cables underground

Theme park prevented

Quarry plan defeated

Green belt test case won against urban sprawl scheme



Straw and stubble burning banned

Broadleaf woodlands protected

Water conservation case, to remedy drying rivers, officially accepted

Legal hedgerow protection brought closer

New grants for environmentally sensitive farming

Proposed motorway diverted along less harmful route

Advertising hoardings stopped

Can you see what CPRE has achieved? The countryside protectors' monument is often what is *not* there. Please join us to protect the countryside.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE
CPRE

Reg.Charity No. 233179

YES, I would like to join CPRE. *I ENCLOSE*

☐ £12 (individual) ☐ £16 (joint) ☐ £350 (life) And/or ☐ £_____(donation)

I am paying the total of £_____ by ☐ Cheque/PO (payable to CPRE)

☐ Access/Visa No. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *Expiry date* ___/___

Cardholder's signature _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode

PLEASE POST TO COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)
FREEPOST, GOLDTHORPE, ROTHERHAM S63 9BR

(D169)

906

British Birds

Volume 85 Number 12 December 1992

631 **Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland** Part 1. Numbers during 1986-90: seabirds to waders *P. A. Fraser and Dr J. F. Ryan*

635 **ICBP news** *Dr Georgina Green*

636 **Seasonal reports** Spring 1992 *Barry Nightingale and Keith Allsopp*

647 **Mystery photographs** *183* Tennessee Warbler *Dr Colin Bradshaw*

Reviews

650 'An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire', edited by Peter Deans, Jack Sankey, Leo Smith, John Tucker, Chris Whittles & Colin Wright, and 'The Breeding Bird Atlas of Cheshire and Wirral' by J. P. Guest, D. Elphick, J. S. A. Hunter & D. Norman *Dr J. T. R. Sharrock*

651 'British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails' by Eric Simms *Per Alström*

651 Short reviews

652 Seventy-five years ago . . .

653 **Field identification of Black-faced Bunting** *Dr Colin Bradshaw*

665 **Fieldwork action** BTO news *Dr Paul Green*

Announcements

666 'The Carl Zeiss Award'

666 Bird Photograph of the Year

666 Bird Illustrator of the Year

666 Bunting painting for sale

666 Binding your 'BB'

666 Books in British BirdShop

Requests

667 Colour-marked birds: a reminder

667 Wing-tagged Hen Harriers *Brian Etheridge*

667 'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB'

667 **Diary dates** *Mrs S. D. Cobban*

Notes

668 Bill colour of female Goldeneye *Keith Brockie*

669 Female Goldeneye with yellow bill *Richard Allen*

670 Woodpigeon using moving lorry to evade hunting Goshawk *Kazimierz Walasz*

670 Meadow Pipit evading Merlin by settling near human being *David G. P. Chatfield*

670 Mirror-fighting by Grey Wagtail in winter *Drs. Arnoud B. van den Berg*

672 Wing-spreading by foraging wheatears *John Palfrey*

672 Unusual nest sites of Dartford Warbler *Mrs Glenis A. Vowles*

673 Arctic Warbler evading Hobby by settling near human beings *David Fisher*

673 Song by female Phylloscopus warblers: the influence of 'stress' *J. R. King*

674 Crow predation in recently cut set-aside land *J. Grynderup Poulsen and Dr N. W. Sotherton*

675 A gynandromorphic House Sparrow *N. V. McCanch*

677 **Studies of West Palearctic birds** *191* Azores Bullfinch *Dr Colin J. Bibby, Trevor D. Charlton and Jaime Ramos*

Letters

680 English names of birds *John Parker*

680 Identification of juvenile Verreaux's Eagle – a correction *D. G. Allan and R. A. G. Davies*

683 Blackcaps and noise *Professor Dr P. Berthold and U. Querner*

684 Cloaca-pecking by tits *Geoffrey Boyle*

684 **News and comment** *Mike Everett and Robin Prytherch*

687 **Monthly marathon**

688 **Recent reports** *Barry Nightingale and Anthony McGeehan*

688 **Corrections**

Line-drawings: 631 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Bryan Bland*); 636 Bluethroat; 637 Hoopoe; 640 Tawny Pipit; 644 Red-rumped Swallow, and Long-billed Dowitcher; 646 Great White Egret, and Pacific Golden Plover (*Dan Powell*); 653 Black-faced Bunting (*M. Eccles*); 677 Azores Bullfinch (*Alan Harris*)

Front cover: Ringed Plovers (*Robert Gillmor*): the original drawing of this month's cover design, measuring 12.4 × 13.9 cm, is for sale in a postal auction (see page 16 in January issue for procedure)

-5 12

THE NATURAL
HISTORY MUSEUM
23 DEC 1992
PURCHASED
ZOOLOGY LIBRARY



British Birds

Index to volume 85

1992

Binding

Volumes for binding should be sent not to the publishers but direct to the binders, London Journal Bindery. The charge is £17.95 per volume, which includes the cost of packing and return postage (UK only). The binding will be in the same style as in previous years, with the volume number blocked in Arabic numerals; earlier volumes can also be bound at this rate. Please complete the form on the back cover and send it with all the parts and the correct money to:

London Journal Bindery
Roslin Road
London W8 3DH
Telephone: 081-752 0552

Please complete the binding form on the back cover and note that orders for binding are not to be sent to the publishers

List of line-drawings

PAGES

16 Cormorants and Little Egret (*Thelma K. Sykes*)
18-19 Little Egrets (*Chris Parr*)
53 Shoebill (*Bryan Bland*)
59 Hoopoe (*Bryan Bland*)
60 Demoiselle Cranes (*the late Laurel Tucker*)
62 Lanceolated Warbler (*Ian Lewington*)
87 Audouin's Gulls (*A. M. Paterson*)
102 Long-tailed Ducks (*Mike Pollard*)
103 King Eider (*Mark Simmonds*)
108 Moussier's Redstart (*Bruce Pearson*)
117 Avocets (*Richard Allen*)
141 Immature Steppe Eagle with 'Steppe' Buzzards (*Alan Harris*)
201 Redwing (*Tim Worfolk*)
202 Bobolink (*Dan Powell*)
204 Isabelline Shrike (*Dan Powell*)
207 Rose-coloured Starling and Starlings (*Phil Jones*)
207 Shore Lark (*Jan Wilczur*)
208 Desert Warbler (*Dan Powell*)
209 Great Grey Shrike (*John Wright*)
209 Waxwing (*Richard Thewlis*)
211 Birdwatcher on camel (*Norman Arlott*)
251 Hobby (*Brian Small*)
263 Black-throated Diver (*David Quinn*)
337 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dave Nurney*)
344 Marsh Sandpiper and Black-tailed Godwit (*Dan Powell*)
370 Lesser Scaup, Tufted Duck and Pochards (*Andrew Birch*)
415 Richard Richardson (*Bryan Bland*)
415-424 BIRD ILLUSTRATOR OF THE YEAR 1992: Rough-legged Buzzard; Black-eared Wheatear; Leach's Petrel (*John Gale*); White-crowned Black Wheatear; Dead Sea Sparrows (*James P. Smith*); Pochards; Song Thrush (*J. P. P. Wilczur*); Snow Buntings; Desert Warbler (*Stephen Message*); Waxwings; Greenshank (*Antony S. Disley*); Starlings; Woodpigeon (*Nicola Greenwood*); King Eider with Eiders; Black Grouse (*John Wright*); Rooks (*Pete Sewell*); Brent Geese (*John M. Walters*); Shags (*Andrew James Mortley*); Black-eared Wheatear (*Richard Fowling*)
426 Great Knot (*Alan Harris*)
431 Long-toed Stint (*Dave Nurney*)
469 Golden Eagle (*Keith Brockie*)
482 Long-eared Owls (*Dan Powell*)
484 Laughing Gull (*Alan Harris*)
485 Shore Lark (*Dan Powell*)
486 Desert Wheatear (*Phil Jones*); Little Bunting and Reed Bunting (*Dan Powell*)
578 Buzzard (*Bruce Pearson*)
595 Golden-winged Warbler (*Dave Nurney*)
631 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Bryan Bland*)
636 Bluethroat (*Dan Powell*)
637 Hoopoe (*Dan Powell*)
640 Tawny Pipit (*Dan Powell*)
644 Red-rumped Swallow and Long-billed Dowitcher (*Dan Powell*)
646 Great White Egret, and Pacific Golden Plover (*Dan Powell*)
653 Black-faced Bunting (*Martin Eccles*)
677 Azores Bullfinch (*Alan Harris*)

Index to volume 85

Compiled by M. A. Ogilvie

Entries are in single list with reference to:

(1) every significant mention of each species, not only in titles, but also within the text of papers, notes and letters, including all those appearing in such lists as the 'Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1991', but excluding those in 'Recent reports', 'News and comment', requests and reviews;

(2) scientific nomenclature under generic names only and following *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1984);

(3) authors of all papers, notes, reviews and letters, and photographers; papers are referred to by their titles, other contributions as 'note on', 'review of', etc.;

(4) a few subject headings, e.g. 'Announcements', 'Breeding', 'Display', 'Editorial', 'Field characters', 'Food and feeding behaviour', 'News and comment', 'Rarities Committee', 'Recent reports', 'Requests', 'Roosting' and 'Voice';

(5) 'Reviews' and 'Short reviews', which are listed together under these headings in alphabetical order of authors reviewed.

Accentor, Alpine, spring 1992, 636, 644
—— Siberian, European news, 457
Accipiter badius, see Shikra
—— *brevipes*, see Sparrowhawk, Levant
—— *gentilis*, see Goshawk
—— *nisus*, see Sparrowhawk
Acrocephalus aedon, see Warbler, Thick-billed
—— *agricola*, see Warbler, Paddyfield
—— *arundinaceus*, see Warbler, Great Reed
—— *dumetorum*, see Warbler, Blyth's Reed
—— *melanopogon*, see Warbler, Moustached
—— *paludicola*, see Warbler, Aquatic
—— *palustris*, see Warbler, Marsh
—— *schoenobaenus*, see Warbler, Sedge
—— *scirpaceus*, see Warbler, Reed
—— *stentoreus*, see Warbler, Clamorous Reed
Actitis hypoleucos, see Sandpiper, Common
—— *macularia*, see Sandpiper, Spotted
Actophilornis africana, see Jacana, African
Aegithalos caudatus, see Tit, Long-tailed
Aegolius funereus, see Owl, Tengmalm's
Aegypius monachus, see Vulture, Black
Aix galericulata, see Mandarin
—— *sponsa*, see Duck, Wood
Alauda arvensis, see Skylark
—— *gulgula*, see Skylark, Oriental
Albatross, Black-browed, European news, 6, 443; accepted records 1990-91, 510
Albrecht, Simon, letter on priorities for conservation, 189-90
Alcedo atthis, see Kingfisher
Alexander, Greg, note on attempted copulation by Great Tits during snowfall and freezing conditions, 315; on Kingfisher apparently feeding on blackberries, 616
Alexander, S. M. D., photograph of Greater Sand Plover, 106, plate 43; of Night Heron, 482, plate 194
Allan, D. G., and Davies, R. A. G., letter on identification of juvenile Verreaux's Eagle – a correction, 680-3, plates 317-8
Alle alle, see Auk, Little
Allen, Richard, note on female Goldeneye with yellow bill, 669-70
Allison, R., letter on binocular and telescope warranties and 'grey imports', 317
Allsopp, Keith, see Nightingale, Barry
Alopochen aegyptiacus, see Goose, Egyptian
Alström, Per, review of Simms: *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails*, 651
Ammodramus sandwichensis, see Sparrow, Savannah
Anas acuta, see Pintail
—— *americana*, see Wigeon, American
—— *clypeata*, see Shoveler
—— *crecca*, see Teal
—— *discors*, see Teal, Blue-winged
—— *falcata*, see Duck, Falcated
—— *formosa*, see Teal, Baikal
—— *penelope*, see Wigeon

—— *platyrhynchos*, see Mallard
—— *querquedula*, see Garganey
—— *strepera*, see Gadwall
Andrews, Ian J., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Announcements: Young Ornithologists of the Year, 'The Carl Zeiss Award', Bird Photograph of the Year, Bird Illustrator of the Year, The PJC Award, The Richard Richardson Award, Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs, latest rarity decisions, front-cover designs for sale, photographs and drawings may be for sale, free subscriptions for County/Regional Recorders, free advertising for subscribers, 'British BirdShop' subsidises 'BB', 44-7; rarity decision, the 'BB'-Sunbird tour to Israel and Egypt, September 1991, plates 55-8, 126-9; with 'BB' to Israel, Rarities Committee: new member, 194; 'BB' in Thailand 1992, additions to the British List, 256-7; forthcoming 'BB'-Sunbird bird-watching trips, 324; change of address of 'BB' binders, 383; 'BB' goes owling, binders, 503; British BirdShop—Subbuteo delivers the goods, English names: results of referendum, The 'BB' Award for the Best Annual Bird Report, recommended bird tour companies, 623-5; 'The Carl Zeiss Award', Bird Photograph of the Year, Bird Illustrator of the Year, binding your 'BB', 666
Anser albifrons, see Goose, White-fronted
—— *anser*, see Goose, Greylag
—— *brachyrhynchus*, see Goose, Pink-footed
—— *caerulescens*, see Goose, Snow
—— *erythropus*, see Goose, Lesser White-fronted
—— *fabalis*, see Goose, Bean
—— *indicus*, see Goose, Bar-headed
—— *rossii*, see Goose, Ross's
Anthus campestris, see Pipit, Tawny
—— *cervinus*, see Pipit, Red-throated
—— *godlewskii*, see Pipit, Blyth's
—— *gustavi*, see Pipit, Pechora
—— *hodgsoni*, see Pipit, Olive-backed
—— *novaeseelandiae*, see Pipit, Richard's
—— *pratensis*, see Pipit, Meadow
—— *rubescens*, see Pipit, Buff-bellied
—— *spinoletta*, see Pipit, Water
—— *trivialis*, see Pipit, Tree
Apus affinis, see Swift, Little
—— *apus*, see Swift
—— *melba*, see Swift, Alpine
—— *pacificus*, see Swift, Pacific
—— *pallidus*, see Swift, Pallid
—— *unicolor*, see Swift, Plain
Aquila chrysaetos, see Eagle, Golden
—— *clanga*, see Eagle, Spotted
—— *heliaca*, see Eagle, Imperial
—— *pomarina*, see Eagle, Lesser Spotted
—— *(rapax) nipalensis*, see Eagle, Steppe
—— *verreauxii*, see Eagle, Verreaux's
Ardea cinerea, see Heron, Grey
—— *herodias*, see Heron, Great Blue
—— *purpurea*, see Heron, Purple
Ardeola ralloides, see Heron, Squacco
Asio flammeus, see Owl, Short-eared
—— *otus*, see Owl, Long-eared
Aspin, W., photograph of Bonelli's Warbler, 544, plate 241
Aspinall, Simon, letter on reidentification of tree species, 316-7, plate 131
Athene noctua, see Owl, Little
Auk, Little, autumn 1991, 103
Avocet, spring 1992, 637-8, 640
Aythya affinis, see Scaup, Lesser
—— *collaris*, see Duck, Ring-necked
—— *fuligula*, see Duck, Tufted
—— *marila*, see Scaup
—— *nyroca*, see Duck, Ferruginous
—— *valisineria*, see Canvasback

Baha el Din, Sherif and Mindy, European news, 443-63
Bahat, Liora and Ofer, photograph of Steppe Eagle, 172, plate 82
Bamber, T. B., note on flight speed of Cormorant, 237
Barnes, J. A. G., note on Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tits and Coal Tits eating algae, 381
Barrett, Mike, Moussier's Redstart: new to Britain and Ireland, 108-111, plates 46-50
Barth, Edvard K., photograph of Crane, 588, plate 259
Bartov, Eyal, photograph of Spotted Eagle, 169, plate 69
Bartramia longicauda, see Sandpiper, Upland
Bateleur, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; European news, 447
Batten, Leo, short review, 368
Baumanis, Jānis, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Bee-eater, autumn 1991, 201; European news, 454; accepted record 1989-90, 533; spring 1992, 643
——, Blue-cheeked, European news, 454
——, Little Green, European news, 454
Bengtsson, Kenneth, and Hirschfeld, Erik, note on Griffon Vulture drowning in sea, 186
Bennett, C. J. L., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Berg, Hans-Martin, European news, 443-63
Berthold, P., and Querner, U., letter on Blackcaps and noise, 683
Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs, 600-11, plates 272-87
Bibby, Colin, review of Brooke and Birkhead: *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology*, 79-80; of Stroud and Glue: *Britain's Birds in 1989-90*, 210
——, ——, Charlton, T. D., and Ramos, Jaime, Studies of West Palearctic birds 191. Azores Bullfinch, 677-80, plate 316
Bird Illustrator of the Year 1991, award presentation, 51, plates 14-15
Bird Illustrator of the Year 1992, 415-24; award presentation, 685, plates 319-21
Bird Photograph of the Year 1992, 293-9,

plates 119-26; award presentation, 627, plates 290-1
Birkhead, T. R., short review, 651-2
Bittern, American, European news, 444; accepted record 1991, 510-1
——, Little, 604, plate 279; spring 1992, 638, 640
Bjerre, Klaus, photograph of Pallid Harrier, 165, plate 63
Blackbird, eating ice-cream, 244; consuming flowers, 617; display by female, 617; aggressive bird grounding Little Owl, 617-8
——, Yellow-headed, European news, 462
Blackcap, spring 1992, 637; letter on effect of noise, 683
Bluetail, Red-flanked, European news, 457
Bluethroat, spring 1992, 640, 644
Bobolink, autumn 1991, 206-8, plate 107; accepted records 1991, 552
Boddy, Mike, letter on eastern vagrants in Britain in autumn 1988, 500-2
Bombycilla garrulus, see Waxwing
Booby, Brown, European news, 444
Booth, Chris J., and Reynolds, Peter, note on Crossbill eating slug, 245-6
Botaurus lentiginosus, see Bittern, American
Bottomley, J. B. and S., photograph of Grasshopper Warbler, 72, plate 25
Bourne, W. R. P., note on Leach's Petrels visiting ships at sea, 556-7
Bowler, Pete, letter on looking 'Fisons' gift horse in the mouth, 382-3
Boyle, Geoffrey, note on Swallows roosting on ship at night, 616-7; letter on cloaca-pecking by tits, 684
Bradshaw, Colin, mystery photograph 181, 503, 565-8, plates 212, 247-53; comments on 1991 rarities, 507-54; mystery photograph 183, 595, 647-9, plates 267, 300; field identification of Black-faced Bunting, 653-65, plates 302-12
Brambling, autumn 1991, 208
Branta bernicla, see Goose, Brent
—— *canadensis*, see Goose, Canada
—— *leucopsis*, see Goose, Barnacle
—— *ruficollis*, see Goose, Red-breasted
Breeding: Little Grebe, 555-6; Sparrowhawk, 133-4; Buzzard, 578-87; Golden Eagle, 469-81; Kestrel, 498; Peregrine, 498; Ringed Plover, 498-9; Audouin's Gull, 97-100; Barn Owl, 378-9; Tawny Owl, 378-9; Grey Wagtail, 313; Blue Tit, 314-5; Jackdaw, 378-9
Brett, E. C., note on Black-headed Gull drinking flooding water, 312-3
Brewer, A. D., photographs of Lesser Scaup and Scaup, 375, plates 152-3
'British Birds' Best Annual Bird Report Award, 299-308
'British Birds' Best Bird Book of the Year, 612
Brockie, Keith, note on bill colour of female Goldeneye, 668-9
Brown, Alan, identification pitfalls and assessment problems 12: Surf Scoter, 437-9; photograph of Baillon's Crake, 523, plate 227; of Pied Wheatear, 542-3, plates 234, 237
Bubo bubo, see Owl, Eagle
Bubulcus ibis, see Egret, Cattle
Bucephala albeola, see Bufflehead
—— *clangula*, see Goldeneye
—— *islandica*, see Goldeneye, Barrow's
Bufflehead, European news, 446
Bull, G. P., photograph of Radde's Warbler, 544, plate 242
Bullfinch, Azores, Studies of West Palearctic birds 191, 677-80, plate 316
Bulweria bulwerii, see Petrel, Bulwer's
Bunting, Black-faced, field identification, 653-65, plates 302-12
——, Black-headed, autumn 1991, 201; European news, 462; accepted records 1987-91, 552; spring 1992, 636, 643, 645
——, Cinereous, European news, 462
——, Corn, spring 1992, 637-8
——, Cretzschmar's, European news, 15
——, Indigo, European news, 462; accepted records 1988-89, 552
——, Lapland, winter 1991/92, 486
——, Little, autumn 1991, 207; European news, 462; winter 1991/92, 486; accepted records 1990-91, 517, 551, plates 217-9
——, Ortolan, autumn 1991, 204; European news, 462; spring 1992, 640
——, Pine, European news, 15, 462; autumn 1991, 208; winter 1991/92, 486, 488-9, plates 204, 207
——, Red-headed, autumn 1991, 204; spring 1992, 645
——, Rustic, autumn 1991, 207-8; European news, 462; accepted records 1990-91, 550-1
——, Yellow-breasted, autumn 1991, 204; European news, 462; accepted records 1991, 551-2
Burhinus oedicnemus, see Stone-curlew
Burns, David W., photograph of Long-toed Stint, 430, plate 174
Búrquez, Alberto, note on Blue Tits as pollinators of the crown imperial, 40-3, plates 11-13
Bustard, Great, European news, 448
——, Houbara, European news, 448
Buteo buteo, see Buzzard
—— *lagopus*, see Buzzard, Rough-legged
—— *rufinus*, see Buzzard, Long-legged
Butorides striatus, see Heron, Green-backed
Button, Terry, photograph of Hawfinch, 298, plate 126; of Dotterel, 487, plate 200
Buzzard, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; with live common eel, 187-8; European news, 447; dispersal and age of first breeding in Central Wales, 578-87, plates 257-8
——, Honey, autumn 1991, 104; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plates 70-81; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633; spring 1992, 645
——, Long-legged, numbers migrating at

Eilat, 141-86; European news, 447
——, Rough-legged, autumn 1991, 104; winter 1991/92, 484; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633; spring 1992, 637

Calandrella acutirostris, see Lark, Hume's Short-toed
—— *brachydactyla*, see Lark, Short-toed
—— *rufescens*, see Lark, Lesser Short-toed
Calcarius lapponicus, see Bunting, Lapland
Calidris acuminata, see Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed
—— *alba*, see Sanderling
—— *alpina*, see Dunlin
—— *bairdii*, see Sandpiper, Baird's
—— *canutus*, see Knot
—— *ferruginea*, see Sandpiper, Curlew
—— *fuscicollis*, see Sandpiper, White-rumped
—— *maritima*, see Sandpiper, Purple
—— *melanotos*, see Sandpiper, Pectoral
—— *minuta*, see Stint, Little
—— *minutilla*, see Sandpiper, Least
—— *pusilla*, see Sandpiper, Semipalmated
—— *ruficollis*, see Stint, Red-necked
—— *subminuta*, see Stint, Long-toed
—— *temminckii*, see Stint, Temminck's
—— *tenuirostris*, see Knot, Great
Calonectris diomedea, see Shearwater, Cory's
Canvasback, European news, 446
Caprimulgus aegyptius, see Nightjar, Egyptian
Carduelis cannabina, see Linnet
—— *flammea*, see Redpoll
—— *flavirostris*, see Twite
—— *hornemanni*, see Redpoll, Arctic
—— *spinus*, see Siskin
Carl Zeiss Award 1992, The, 622
Carlson, Kevin, photograph of Grasshopper Warbler, 71, plate 24; of Spoonbill, 604, plate 278; of Little Bittern, 604, plate 279; of Melodious Warbler, 606, plate 283
Carpodacus erythrinus, see Rosefinch, Scarlet
Carter, S. J., photograph of Cattle Egret, 638, plate 293
Casement, M. B., photographs of Great Reed Warbler, 114, 249, plates 52-3, 112-3
Catharus fuscescens, see Veery
—— *guttatus*, see Thrush, Hermit
—— *minimus*, see Thrush, Gray-cheeked
—— *ustulatus*, see Thrush, Swainson's
Catley, Graham, monthly marathon photograph credit, 366; identification pitfalls and assessment problems 13: Pallas's Warbler, 490-4, plates 208-10
Cepphus grylle, see Guillemot, Black
Certhia brachydactyla, see Treecreeper, Short-toed
Cettia cetti, see Warbler, Cetti's
Chaetura pelagica, see Swift, Chimney
Chandler, L. and C., letter on identifying Spanish egrets, 569
Chandler, R. J., short review, 116; product report, 336-7; photograph of Lesser Scaup, 374, plate 150; of Common Tern, 600, plate 273; of Killdeer, 602, plate 274; of Curlew Sandpiper, 602, plate 275
——, ——, Sharrock, J. T. R., and Smith, Don, Bird Photograph of the Year, 1992, 293-9, plates 119-26
——, ——, see Sharrock, J. T. R.
Charadrius alexandrinus, see Plover, Kentish
—— *dubius*, see Plover, Little Ringed
—— *hiaticula*, see Plover, Ringed
—— *leschenaultii*, see Plover, Greater Sand
—— *morinellus*, see Dotterel
—— *pecuarius*, see Plover, Kittlitz's Sand
—— *vociferus*, see Killdeer
Charlton, Trevor D., photograph of Azores Bullfinch, 679, plate 316
——, ——, see Bibby, Colin
Chatfield, David G. P., note on Meadow Pipit evading Merlin by settling near human being, 670
Chettusia gregaria, see Plover, Sociable
—— *leucura*, see Plover, White-tailed
Chiffchaff, mystery photograph, 25-7, plate 7; spring 1992, 637
Childs, Joan, review of Hume: *Birds*, 32-3
Chittenden, Robin, photograph of Arctic Redpoll, 517, plate 216
Chlamydotis undulata, see Bustard, Houbara
Chlidonias hybridus, see Tern, Whiskered
—— *leucopterus*, see Tern, White-winged Black
—— *niger*, see Tern, Black
Chough, European news, 461
Christie, David A., review of Il'icev and Zubakin: *Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion, vol.6, part 1*, 33
——, ——, see Shirihai, Hadoram
Chumleigh, Brian, monthly marathon photograph credit, 95
Ciconia ciconia, see Stork, White
—— *nigra*, see Stork, Black
Circaetus gallicus, see Eagle, Short-toed
Circus aeruginosus, see Harrier, Marsh
—— *cyaneus*, see Harrier, Hen
—— *macrourus*, see Harrier, Pallid
—— *pygargus*, see Harrier, Montagu's
Cisticola juncidis, see Warbler, Fan-tailed
Clangula hyemalis, see Duck, Long-tailed
Clark, John, photograph of 'BB'-SUNBIRD trip to Morocco, 505, plate 213
Clarke, Andrew W., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Clarke, H., photograph of Hermit Thrush, 567, plate 249
Clarke, Hockley, obituary, 684
Clarke, Roger, note on roosting Hen Harrier killed by fox, 129-30; on Sparrowhawk roost, 130-3, plates 59-61
Clasper, Brian, photograph of Bridled Tern, 107, plate 45
Cleere, Nigel, note on Woodpigeon attempting to feed from suspended peanut-holder, 378
Clement, Peter, comments on 1991 rarities, 507-54
Coath, M., note on talon-locking between Kestrel and Red-footed Falcon, 496

Cobban, Sheila D., diary dates, 322-4, 667-8
Coccothraustes coccothraustes, see Hawfinch
Coccyzus americanus, see Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
—— *erythrophthalmus*, see Cuckoo, Black-billed
Colenutt, Simon R., mystery photograph 176, 112-3, plate 51
Coller, M., photograph of Little Bunting, 517, plate 219
Columba oenas, see Dove, Stock
—— *palumbus*, see Woodpigeon
Combridge, M. C. and P., note on effect of freezing conditions on roosting Hen Harrier, 130; on Red-footed Falcon robbing Kestrels, 496
Combridge, Pete, and Parr, Chris, influx of Little Egrets in Britain and Ireland in 1989, 16-21
Contact lenses, benefit of to birdwatchers with sight defects, 90
Cooper, Anthony A., note on concealing posture of Mallard, 35; on foot-trembling behaviour of Dotterel, 308-9
Coot, European news, 8
——, Crested, European news, 447; knob-nibbling, 560-1, plates 244-5
Coracias garrulus, see Roller
Cormorant, flight speed, 237; method of dealing with large flatfish, 238; European news, 6, 444
——, Pygmy, European news, 6, 444
Corncrake, numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634
Corvus corax, see Raven
—— *corone*, see Crow, Carrion
—— *frugilegus*, see Rook
—— *monedula*, see Jackdaw
—— *rhipidurus*, see Raven, Fan-tailed
—— *splendens*, see Crow, Indian House
Cottridge, David M., photograph of Desert Warbler, 205, plate 104; of Lesser Scaup, 373, plates 146-9; of Red-throated Pipit, 541, plate 233; of Isabelline Wheatear, 542-3, plates 235, 238; of Gray-cheeked Thrush, 542-3, plates 236, 239
Coturnix coturnix, see Quail
County, regional and bird observatory recorders in Britain and Ireland, 28-30
Courser, Cream-coloured, European news, 8, 448
Coutts, Dennis, photograph of Sandhill Crane, 105, plate 40; of Great Knot, 429, plate 169; of Brown Flycatcher, 641, plate 297; of Japanese Grosbeak, 641, plate 298
Cox, Simon, mystery photograph 182, 568, 593-4, plates 254, 266
Crake, Baillon's, autumn 1991, 104; winter 1991/92, 484; accepted records 1990-91, 522-3, plate 227
——, Spotted, autumn 1991, 104; European news, 447; winter 1991/92, 484; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634
Cramp, Stanley, a life for ornithology (1913-1987), 387-414, plates 155-67
Crane, identification pitfalls and assessment problems 14, 587-92, plates 259, 261, 264; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634
——, Demoiselle, photographs, 589-90, plates 260, 262-3
——, Sandhill, autumn 1991, 104-5, plate 40; European news, 447-8; accepted record 1991, 522
Crease, A. J., note on cannibalism by Magpies, 87-8; on Barn Owls and Jackdaws sharing nest site, 378-9
Crex crex, see Corncrake
Cross, M., photograph of Citrine Wagtail, 544, plate 240
Crossbill, European news, 15, 461; autumn 1991, 202; eating slug, 245-6
——, Parrot, European news, 15; accepted records 1990-91, 550
——, Two-barred, European news, 14; accepted records 1990-91, 549-50
Crow, Carrion, 'third bird' copulating at nest, 88
——, Indian House, European news, 14
Crozier, Jacqueline, European news, 6-16
Cuckoo, photographs, 607, plates 284-5; spring 1992, 638
——, Black-billed, European news, 453
——, Yellow-billed, autumn 1991, 207-8; accepted records 1991, 532
Cuculus canorus, see Cuckoo
Curlew, European news, 451; photograph, 605, plate 276; spring 1992, 646
——, Slender-billed, European news, 9, 451; breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65
Cursorius cursor, see Courser, Cream-coloured
Cygnus columbianus, see Swan, Bewick's
—— *cygnus*, see Swan, Whooper
—— *olor*, see Swan, Mute

da Prato, Stan, short review, 115-6; letter on conservation, 318
Dalziel, Larry, monthly marathon photo credits, 31, 101
Davies, R. A. G., photographs of Verreaux's Eagle, 681-2, plates 317-8
——, ——, see Allan, D. G.
Davis, P. E., and Davis, J. E., dispersal and age of first breeding of Buzzards in Central Wales, 575-87, plates 257-8
Dazley, Rob, photograph of Shag, 27, 81, plates 8, 30
de Juana A., Eduardo, European news, 6-16, 443-63
De Schutter, Bart, European news, 6-16
Dean, A. R., mystery photograph 174: Chiffchaff, 25-27, plate 7; review of Alström and Colston: *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe*, 190-2; of Knox: *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Europe, 6th edn*, 615
Dean, Tim, note on nest cup of Moorhen composed of polythene, 560, plate 243

Deane, C. Douglas, obituary, 584
Delichon urbica, see Martin, House
Dendrocopos major, see Woodpecker, Great Spotted
—— *syriacus*, see Woodpecker, Syrian
Dendroica caerulescens, see Warbler, Black-throated Blue
—— *coronata*, see Warbler, Yellow-rumped
—— *fusca*, see Warbler, Blackburnian
—— *striata*, see Warbler, Blackpoll
—— *virens*, see Warbler, Black-throated Green
Dennis, Mike, letter on yellow-legged Herring Gulls in Essex, 246
Dennis, R. H., see Watson, J.
Diary dates, 322-4, 667-8
Dickson, R. C., note on feeding groups of Common Scoters containing other species, 35-6
Diomedea melanophris, see Albatross, Black-browed
Disley, Antony S., winner, The Richard Richardson Award 1992, 415-24; award presentation 685, plate 320
Display: Bewick's Swan, 463-4; Whooper Swan, 463-4; Blackbird, 617
Diver, Red-throated, winter 1991/92, 482; spring 1992, 638
——, White-billed, autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 482; accepted records 1991, 510
Doherty, Paul, letter on breeding record of Icterine Warbler in Yorkshire in 1970, 247; photographs of Long-toed Stint, 430, 435, plates 172, 175-7; Golden-winged Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic, 595-600, plates 268-71
Dolichonyx oryzivorus, see Bobolink
Dotterel, European news, 8; foot-trembling behaviour, 308-9; winter 1991/92, 484, 487, plate 200; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634; spring 1992, 640
Dove, Collared, European news, 9, 453; photograph, 297, plate 123
——, Laughing, European news, 453
——, Namaqua, European news, 453
——, Rufous Turtle, European news, 453
——, Stock, European news, 9
Dowell, Andy, and Shaw, Geoff, note on Barn Owls and Tawny Owls nesting close together, 379
Dowell, Simon, letter on English names, 620
Dowitcher, Long-billed, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plate 143; European news, 451; accepted records 1990-91, 527; spring 1992, 644
——, Short-billed, European news, 451
Dubois, Philippe J., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Duck, Falcated, autumn 1991, 103; European news, 446
——, Ferruginous, European news, 446; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633
——, Harlequin, European news, 446; accepted record 1991, 519
——, Long-tailed, European news, 446; winter 1991/92, 483, 487, plate 199
——, Marbled, European news, 7, 446
——, Ring-necked, autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483; accepted records 1988-91, 515-6
——, Ruddy, European news, 447
——, Tufted, European news, 446
——, White-headed, European news, 7, 447
——, Wood, European news, 446
Duff, A. G., letter on the benefit of contact lenses to birdwatchers with sight defects, 90
Dunlin, photograph, 240, plate 111; 603, plate 277; correction, 620
Dunnett, John B., Long-toed Stint: new to Britain and Ireland, 429-36, plates 170-80

Eagle, Bonelli's, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
——, Booted, autumn 1991, 104; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plate 90
——, Golden, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; European news, 447; nest-site selection in Scotland, 469-81
——, Imperial, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
——, Lesser Spotted, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plate 68
——, Short-toed, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plate 66; European news, 447
——, Spotted, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plate 69
——, Steppe, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plates 82-4
——, Verreaux's, European news, 447; letter on identification of juvenile, 680-3, plates 317-8
——, White-tailed, European news, 8; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
Earthquake, birds' premonition of, 88-9
Editorial: 1; new editorial board member, 329; past, present and future, 577
Egret, Cattle, photograph, 385, plate 154; European news, 444; spring 1992, 636-7, 639-40, 642, plate 293
——, Great White, European news, 444; accepted records 1989-91, 512; spring 1992, 640, 646
——, Little, European news, 6, 444; influx in Britain and Ireland in 1989, 16-21; identification pitfalls and assessment problems, 21-4; autumn 1991, 104; winter 1991/92, 482-3; accepted records 1989-90, 511-2; spring 1992, 637, 642
——, Snowy, European news, 444
Egrets, letter on identification in Spain, 569
Egretta alba, see Egret, Great White
—— *garzetta*, see Egret, Little
—— *thula*, see Egret, Snowy
Eider, European news, 7, 446; spring 1992, 646

——, King, European news, 7, 446; autumn 1991, 103; accepted records 1989-91, 519; photograph, 605, plate 280
——, Steller's, European news, 7, 446
Elanus caeruleus, see Kite, Black-shouldered
Elkins, Norman, note on Herring Gull using wind shear over land, 36-7
Ellis, Peter M., short review, 81; Great Knot: new to Britain and Ireland, 426-9, plate 169
——, ——, and Riddiford, Nick J., Savannah Sparrow: second record for the Western Palearctic, 561-4, plate 246
Elmberg, Johan, European news, 6-16
Emberiza aureola, see Bunting, Yellow-breasted
—— *bruniceps*, see Bunting, Red-headed
—— *caesia*, see Bunting, Cretzschmar's
—— *cineracea*, see Bunting, Cinereous
—— *citrinella*, see Yellowhammer
—— *hortulana*, see Bunting, Ortolan
—— *leucocephalos*, see Bunting, Pine
—— *melanocephala*, see Bunting, Black-headed
—— *pusilla*, see Bunting, Little
—— *rustica*, see Bunting, Rustic
—— *spodocephala*, see Bunting, Black-faced
English names of West Palearctic birds, 263-90; letters, 620; results of referendum, 623-4; letter, 680
Eophona personata, see Grosbeak, Japanese
Eremalauda dunni, see Lark, Dunn's
Eremophila alpestris, see Lark, Shore
Erithacus rubecula, see Robin
Eshbol, Yossi, photograph of Lesser Spotted Eagle, 167, plate 68; of Steppe Eagle, 172, plate 84
European news, 6-16, plates 2-6; 443-63, plates 182-92
Everett, M. J., note on Black Kite feeding on House Sparrows, 495-6
——, ——, and Prytherch, Robin, news and comment, see News and comment
——, ——, see Prytherch, Robin
Ewer, Pete, photographs of Lanceolated Warbler, 65-66, plates 18-19
Exotics, see Points of view
Eyre Dickinson, Johann C., note on Great Grey Shrike eating hawthorn berries, 315

Fairman, L., and Harvey, R. H., note on non-aggressive behaviour of Peregrine, 188-9
Falco biarmicus, see Lanner
—— *cherrug*, see Saker
—— *columbarius*, see Merlin
—— *concolor*, see Falcon, Sooty
—— *eleonorae*, see Falcon, Eleonora's
—— *naumanni*, see Kestrel, Lesser
—— *pelegrinoides*, see Falcon, Barbary
—— *peregrinus*, see Peregrine
—— *rusticolus*, see Gyrfalcon
—— *subbuteo*, see Hobby
—— *tinnunculus*, see Kestrel
—— *vespertinus*, see Falcon, Red-footed
Falcon, Barbary, numbers at Eilat, 141-86
——, Eleonora's, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; mystery photograph 179, 292, 333-4, plates 118, 135; European news, 447
——, Red-footed, European news, 8, 447; autumn 1991, 104; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; talon-locking with Kestrel, 496; robbing Kestrel, 496; accepted records 1988-91, 520-1; spring 1992, 636, 642-3
——, Sooty, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
Farinha, João Carlos, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Ficedula albicollis, see Flycatcher, Collared
—— *hypoleuca*, see Flycatcher, Pied
—— *mugimaki*, see Flycatcher, Mugimaki
—— *narcissina*, see Flycatcher, Narcissus
—— *parva*, see Flycatcher, Red-breasted
—— *semitorquata*, see Flycatcher, Semi-collared
Field characters: Little Egret, 21-4; Surf Scoter, 437-9; Verreaux's Eagle, 680-3, plates 317-8; Crane, 587-92, plates 259-64; White-breasted Kingfisher, 613-5, plates 288-9; Lanceolated Warbler, 62-78, plates 16-22, 26; Grasshopper Warbler, 62-78, plates 23-5, 27-8; Pallas's Warbler, 490-4, plates 208-10; Black-faced Bunting, 653-65, plates 302-12
Fieldfare, autumn 1991, 208; spring 1992, 638
Fieldwork action: BTO news: Nightjars and Corn Buntings, 43; piloting towards the future, 124-5; 'nesting' helps bird conservation, 193; churring the night away, 255; organic farming and birds, 321-2; low-tide estuary counts, a new national scheme, 367; Peregrine survey, 442; Sahel drought and migratory birds, 621; Common Birds Census results, 665
Finch, Citril, European news, 14
Fisher, David, note on Arctic Warbler evading Hobby by settling near human beings, 673
Firecrest, European news, 460
Flamingo, Greater, photograph, 295, plate 120; European news, 445
Flegg, Jim, short review, 368
Flycatcher, Brown, spring 1992, 636, 641, 646, plate 297
——, Collared, European news, 460; spring 1992, 636, 642, 644
——, Mugimaki, autumn 1991, 209
——, Narcissus, European news, 13
——, Pied, spring 1992, 638
——, Red-breasted, autumn 1991, 208; European news, 460; spring 1992, 644
——, Semi-collared, European news, 13
——, Spotted, spring 1992, 638, 644
Food and feeding behaviour: Cormorant, 238; Grey Heron, 238; Goosander, 238-9; wildfowl, 495; Black Kite, 495; Montagu's Harrier, 559; Buzzard, 187-8; Kestrel, 188; Red-footed Falcon, 496; Merlin, 497; Little Stint, 309-10, plates 127-8; Purple Sandpiper, 241; Woodcock, 314; Little Gull, 36; Woodpigeon, 378; Kingfisher, 616; Great

Spotted Woodpecker, 40; Woodlark, 380-1; Swallow, 616; House Martin, 242-3; Pied Wagtail, 243; Blackbird, 244, 617; Song Thrush, 618; Goldcrest, 381; Long-tailed Tit, 381-2; Marsh Tit, 313-4; Coal Tit, 313, 381; Blue Tit, 381-2; Golden Oriole, 245; Great Grey Shrike, 315; Magpie, 87-8; Jackdaw, 138; Rook, 246; Spanish Sparrow, 499; Twite, 619; Crossbill, 246-7
Fortey, J. E., see Holian, J. J.
Fowling, Richard, winner, The PJC Award 1992, 415-24; award presentation, 685, plate 321
Fraser, P. A., and Ryan, J. F., Scarce migrants in Britain and Ireland. Part 1. Numbers during 1986-90: seabirds to waders, 631-5
Fratercula arctica, see Puffin
Fregata, see Frigatebird
Frigatebird, European news, 6
Fringilla montifringilla, see Brambling
Fulica atra, see Coot
—— *cristata*, see Coot, Crested

Gadwall, European news, 446
Gale, John, Bird Illustrator of the Year 1992, 415-24; award presentation, 685, plate 319
Galerida cristata, see Lark, Crested
—— *theklae*, see Lark, Thekla
Gallinago media, see Snipe, Great
Gallinula chloropus, see Moorhen
Gallinule, Allen's, European news, 447
——, American Purple, European news, 447
Gamble, Dave, note on aggression of Hobby towards other raptors, 497
Ganea, I. M., European news, 443-63
Garcia, Ernest F. J., review of Finlayson: *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar*, 368; photograph of Little Bunting, 517, plate 217
Garganey, spring 1992, 637
Garrulus glandarius, see Jay
Gasson, Peter, photograph of Long-eared Owl, 483, plate 195
Gauci, Charles, see Sultana, Joe
Gaultier, Thierry, European news, 443-63
Gavia adamsii, see Diver, White-billed
—— *stellata*, see Diver, Red-throated
Gebuis, Hans, photograph of Grasshopper Warbler, 76, plate 29
Geister, Iztok, European news, 443-63
Gelochelidon nilotica, see Tern, Gull-billed
Geronticus eremita, see Ibis, Bald
Gibson, Chris, note on Jackdaws feeding on horse-chestnuts, 138
Gillmor, Robert, *et al.*, Bird Illustrator of the Year 1992, 415-24
——, ——, see Sharrock, J. T. R.
Gipson, P., and Orton, Richard, note on first-brood juvenile Great Crested Grebe 'helping' second-brood chicks, 376-7
Glareola nordmanni, see Pratincole, Black-winged
—— *pratincola*, see Pratincole, Collared
Glaucidium passerinum, see Owl, Pygmy
Glover, Bob, Bird Photograph of the Year 1992, 295, plate 119
Godwit, Black-tailed, autumn 1991, 104; spring 1992, 638
Goldcrest, European news, 13; autumn 1991, 204
Goldeneye, autumn 1991, 103-4; bill colour of female, 668-9, plate 313; female with yellow bill, 669-70
——, Barrow's, admitted to Category A, 519-20
Golvanova, E., photograph of Demoiselle Crane, 589, plate 260
Goodwin, Derek, Points of view 18: should exotics be condemned or cherished?, 334-5
Goosander, European news, 7, 447; stealing fish from Great Crested Grebes, 238-9; spinning, 239
Goose, Bar-headed, European news, 7
——, Barnacle, autumn 1991, 103; European news, 446; winter 1991/92, 483; correction, 688
——, Bean, European news, 7, 445
——, Brent, European news, 446; accepted records of *B. b. nigricans* 1990-91, 514; correction, 688
——, Canada, European news, 7, 446
——, Egyptian, spring 1992, 646
——, Greylag, European news, 445
——, Lesser White-fronted, autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483; accepted records 1991, 514
——, Pink-footed, autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483
——, Red-breasted, European news, 7; autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483
——, Ross's, European news, 445
——, Snow, numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633
——, White-fronted, European news, 445; winter 1991/92, 483
Gorban, Igor, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Goriup, Paul, short review, 320
Goshawk, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; evasion of by Woodpigeon being hunted, 670
Greaves, Conrad, photograph of Purple Heron, 297, plate 124
Grebe, Black-necked, European news, 443
——, Great Crested, food piracy by Grey Herons, 238; fish stolen by Goosanders, 238-9; first-brood juvenile 'helping' second-brood chicks, 376-7
——, Little, sunning in winter, 34; immature attacking Black-headed Gull, 34-5; letter on apparent imprinting on female Mallard, 466; breeding productivity, 555-6
——, Pied-billed, autumn 1991, 103; spring 1992, 636, 640-1, plate 299
——, Red-necked, autumn 1991, 103, 105, plate 39; winter 1991/92, 482
Green, Georgina, ICBP news, 44, 91, 125, 193-4, 256, 322, 367, 441, 571, 611, 635
Green, Paul, BTO news, 43, 124-5, 193, 255, 321-2, 366-7, 442, 621, 665

Grenfell, Harold E., photograph of Glaucous Gull, 601, plate 272; of Yellowhammer, 606, plate 282; of Common Scoter, 609, plate 287
Griffiths, Robin, note on rapid occupation of tree nursery by Woodlarks, 379-80
Grosbeak, Japanese, European news, 461; spring 1992, 641, 646, plate 298
——, Pine, European news, 461; winter 1991/92, 486, 488-9, plates 201, 205
——, Rose-breasted, autumn 1991, 209
Grus canadensis, see Crane, Sandhill
—— *grus*, see Crane
Guillemot, Black, spring 1992, 637
——, Brünnich's, accepted record 1991, 531
Gull, Audouin's, partial breeding failure in two Spanish colonies in 1991, 97-100; European news, 452
——, Black-headed, being attacked by immature Little Grebe, 34-5; drinking flooding water, 312-3; European news, 452
——, Bonaparte's, European news, 452; winter 1991/92, 484; accepted records 1990-91, 518, 529, plate 222; spring 1992, 638
——, Franklin's, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 452; winter 1991/92, 484; accepted records 1991, 518, 529, plates 220-1
——, Glaucous, photograph, 601, plate 272; winter 1991/92, 485; spring 1992, 638
——, Great Black-backed, being begged from by Lesser Black-backed Gull, 378; European news, 452
——, Herring, using wind shear over land, 36-7; letter on yellow-legged birds in Essex, 246; European news, 452; accepted records of *L. a. smithsonianus* in Ireland 1986-90, 529
——, Iceland, winter 1991/92, 485; accepted record of *L. g. kumlieni* in Ireland 1991, 530
——, Ivory, European news, 453; winter 1991/92, 485; accepted record 1990-91, 530
——, Laughing, European news, 9, 452; winter 1991/92, 484-5, 488, plates 197, 206; accepted records 1991, 528-9
——, Lesser Black-backed, corpse scavenged by sheep, 313; apparently begging from Great Black-backed Gull, 378
——, Little, aerial prey-capture technique, 36; photograph, 608, plate 286
——, Mediterranean, European news, 452; winter 1991/92, 484, plate 196; spring 1992, 646
——, Ring-billed, European news, 9, 452; autumn 1991, 107; winter 1991/92, 484-5; accepted record 1987, 529
——, Ross's, European news, 452-3
——, Sabine's, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 452
——, Slender-billed, European news, 9, 452
——, Sooty, photograph, 128, plate 58
——, White-eyed, photographs, 127-8, plates 55-7
Gustin, Marco, European news, 443-63
Gutiérrez, Juan Antonio Lorenzo, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Gyps fulvus, see Vulture, Griffon
Gyrfalcon, winter 1991/92, 484; accepted record 1990, 521

Hadrill, Peter, see Clarke, Roger
Halcyon smyrnensis, see Kingfisher, White-breasted
Haliaeetus albicilla, see Eagle, White-tailed
Halley, Axel, monthly marathon photograph credit, 505
Hamblin, Tony, photograph of Collared Dove, 297, plate 123; of Curlew, 603, plate 276; of Dunlin, 603, plate 277; of Cuckoo, 607, plate 285
Handrinos, George I., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Harding, B. D., note on juvenile House Martin singing, 242; on feeding interaction between House Martins and Pied Wagtails, 242-3
Harper, David, note on 'third bird' copulating at Carrion Crow nest, 88
Harrier, Hen, European news, 8; roosting bird killed by fox, 129-30; effect of freezing conditions on roosting bird, 130; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; one nestling feeding another, 186-7, plate 94; winter 1991/92, 483; spring 1992, 646
——, Marsh, European news, 8, 447; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
——, Montagu's, European news, 8; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; taking prey disturbed by farm machinery, 559; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633
——, Pallid, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
Harris, Alan, see Gillmor, Robert, *et al.*
Harrup, B., note on Robin 'anting' with millipede, 189
Harvey, Paul, see Riddiford, Nick
Harvey, R. H., see Fairman, L.
Hawfinch, photograph, 298, plate 126; European news, 461
Heron, Great Blue, European news, 6
——, Green-backed, European news, 6
——, Grey, food piracy on Great Crested Grebes, 238; photograph, 605, plate 281; European news, 444
——, Night, European news, 444; winter 1991/92, 482, plate 194; accepted records 1989-91, 511; spring 1992, 645
——, Purple, autumn 1991, 104; photograph, 297, plate 124; European news, 444; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632; spring 1992, 642
——, Squacco, European news, 444; accepted record 1990, 511; spring 1992, 636, 644
Heyes, Clifford, photograph of Nutcracker, 203, plate 101
Hickey, Steve, photographs of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year 1991' award presentation, 51, plates 13-14; of 'Bird Illustrator of the Year

1992' award presentation, 685, plates 319-21
Hieraaetus fasciatus, see Eagle, Bonelli's
—— *pennatus*, see Eagle, Booted
Himantopus himantopus, see Stilt, Black-winged
Hippolais caligata, see Warbler, Booted
—— *icterina*, see Warbler, Icterine
—— *languida*, see Warbler, Upcher's
—— *pallida*, see Warbler, Olivaceous
—— *polyglotta*, see Warbler, Melodious
Hirschfeld, Erik, mystery photograph 178, 251, 291-2, plates 114, 117
——, ——, see Bengtsson, Kenneth
Hirundapus caudacutus, see Swift, Needle-tailed
Hirundo aethiopica, see Swallow, Ethiopian
—— *daurica*, see Swallow, Red-rumped
—— *rustica*, see Swallow
Histrionicus histrionicus, see Duck, Harlequin
Hobby, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; first-summer birds in the New Forest, 251-5; aggression towards other raptors, 497; evaded by Arctic Warbler, 673
Holden, Peter, product report, 123
Holian, J. J., and Fortey, J. E., Lesser Scaup: new to the Western Palearctic, 370-6, plates 146-53
Hollings, Michael, photograph of Royal Tern, 568, 593, plates 254, 266
Holman, David J., short reviews, 115, 320
——, ——, and Walsh, David, note on presumed aberrant Redwing showing characters of Eye-browed Thrush, 135-7
Holt, C. W., note on Blackbirds consuming flowers, 617
Hoopoe, European news, 454; spring 1992, 636-7, 640
Hopkins, Gordon R., photograph of Cattle Egret, 385, plate 154
Hoplopterus indicus, see Lapwing, Red-wattled
Hornbuckle, J., photograph of Blackburnian Warbler, 340, plate 138
Hosking, David, short review, 116
Hughes, S. W. M., note on Little Grebes sunning in winter, 34; on House Martins obtaining food from moss on roof, 243; on House Martins sunning on ground, 243; on breeding productivity of Little Grebe, 555-6
Hume, R. A., identification pitfalls and assessment problems 11: Little Egret, 21-4; note on food piracy by Grey Herons on Great Crested Grebes, 238; on Goosanders stealing fish from Great Crested Grebes, 238-9; letter on habituation, 248; review of Dymond: *The Birds of Fair Isle*, 318-9; joins Editorial Board of 'BB', 329; review of Trodd and Kramer: *The Birds of Bedfordshire*, 442-3
Huneker, Huub, photograph of White-breasted Kingfisher, 614, plate 289
Hydrobates pelagicus, see Petrel, Storm
Hylocichla mustelina, see Thrush, Wood

Ibis, Bald, European news, 444-5
——, Glossy, European news, 7, 444; accepted records 1989-91, 513; spring 1992, 642
——, Sacred, European news, 445
ICBP News: progress in Malta?, 44; Romanian mission, 91; birding abroad, 125; racing for the steppes, 192-3; war damage in Croatia, 256; EC countries slow with protection, 322; Indonesia – challenge and opportunity, 367; agriculture in eastern Europe – a call for cooperation, 441; Puna Grebe news, 571; Bald Ibis workshop, 611; Menderes Delta, 635
Identification pitfalls and assessment problems 11: Little Egret, 21-4; 12: Surf Scoter, 437-9; 13: Pallas's Warbler, 490-4, plates 208-10; 14: Crane, 587-92, plates 259-64
If the caption fits . . ., winners, 124, plate 54
Image, Bob, note on Montagu's Harriers taking prey disturbed by farm machinery, 559
Inskipp, T. P., and Sharrock, J. T. R., English names of West Palearctic birds, 263-90
Irania gutturalis, see Robin, White-throated
Ixobrychus minutus, see Bittern, Little

Jacana, African, European news, 448
Jackdaw, European news, 14; feeding on horse-chestnuts, 138; sharing nest site with Barn Owls, 378-9; spring 1992, 646
Jännes, Hannu, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Jardine, David C., note on Twites eating seaweed, 619
Jay, European news, 14
Jewels, A. M., and Kendall, Ian, note on Woodlarks feeding under cover, 380
Junco hyemalis, see Junco, Dark-eyed
Junco, Dark-eyed, European news, 15; accepted record 1990, 550; spring 1992, 636, 642
Jynx torquilla, see Wryneck

Kemp, J. B., note on harrier-like hunting technique of female Sparrowhawk, 377; on wildfowl eating potatoes, 495
——, ——, and Revett, J., note on 'water-boiling' display by Whooper and Bewick's Swans, 463-4
Kendall, Ian, see Jewels, A. M.
Kerr, A., photograph of Olive-backed Pipit, 541, plate 232
Kestrel, European news, 8; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; apparently robbing Short-eared Owl, 188; preying on House Martin nest, 188; talon-locking with Red-footed Falcon, 496; robbed by Red-footed Falcons, 496; nesting beside Peregrines on urban chimney, 498
——, Lesser, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; spring 1992, 636, 645
Kilgour, R. C., photograph of Yellow-browed Warbler, 206, plate 108
Killdeer, accepted records 1990-91, 522; photograph, 602, plate 274
Kimber, Ian, photographs, of Long-toed Stint,

435, plates 178-80
King, J. R., note on song by female *Phylloscopus* warblers: the influence of stress, 673-4
Kingfisher, apparently feeding on blackberries, 616
——, White-breasted, PhotoSpot 33, 613-5, plates 288-9
Kite, Black, autumn 1991, 104; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plates 85-6; European news, 447; feeding on House Sparrows, 495-6; accepted records 1990-91, 520
——, Black-shouldered, European news, 8, 447; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
——, Red, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; European news, 447; spring 1992, 646
Kittiwake, European news, 9, 453; spring 1992, 637, 640
Knight, David, photograph of Lesser Grey Shrike, 203, plate 99
Knot, with cockle shell attached to leg, 240, plate 110; escape reaction from Peregrine, 465
——, Great, new to Britain and Ireland, 426-9, plate 169; European news, 448
Kramer, David, photograph of Radde's Warbler, 203, plate 100
Kurlavicius, Petras, European news, 6-16, 443-63

Laird, William, note on plumage variation of Clamorous Reed Warbler in Israel, 83-5, plates 32-4
Langsbury, Gordon, 3rd place, Bird Photograph of the Year 1992, 296, plate 121; monthly marathon photograph credit, 575
Lanius collurio, see Shrike, Red-backed
—— *excubitor*, see Shrike, Great Grey
—— *isabellinus*, see Shrike, Isabelline
—— *minor*, see Shrike, Lesser Grey
—— *senator*, see Shrike, Woodchat
Lanner, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
Lansdown, Peter, mystery photograph 177, 114, 249-50, plates 52-3, 112-3; Rarities Committee news and announcements, 330-3, plate 134; mystery photograph 180, 334, 424-5, plates 136, 168
——, ——, and Sharrock, J. T. R., The Carl Zeiss Award 1992, 622
Lapwing, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plate 141
——, Red-wattled, European news, 448
Lark, Calandra, European news, 454
——, Crested, European news, 10, 454
——, Dunn's, European news, 454
——, Hume's Short-toed, letter on death of, 246-7
——, Lesser Short-toed, European news, 10; spring 1992, 636, 642
——, Shore, autumn 1991, 202, 208-9; European news, 454; winter 1991/92, 485
——, Short-toed, European news, 10, 454; autumn 1991, 204, 208; accepted records 1989-91, 534; spring 1992, 640, 642
——, Thekla, mystery photograph 180, 334, 424-5, plates 136, 168; European news, 454
Larus argentatus, see Gull, Herring
—— *atricilla*, see Gull, Laughing
—— *audouinii*, see Gull, Audouin's
—— *delawarensis*, see Gull, Ring-billed
—— *fuscus*, see Gull, Lesser Black-backed
—— *genei*, see Gull, Slender-billed
—— *glaucoides*, see Gull, Iceland
—— *hemprichii*, see Gull, Sooty
—— *hyperboreus*, see Gull, Glaucous
—— *leucophthalmus*, see Gull, White-eyed
—— *marinus*, see Gull, Great Black-backed
—— *melanocephalus*, see Gull, Mediterranean
—— *minutus*, see Gull, Little
—— *philadelphia*, see Gull, Bonaparte's
—— *pipixcan*, see Gull, Franklin's
—— *ridibundus*, see Gull, Black-headed
—— *sabini*, see Gull, Sabine's
Le Cornec, Erwan, monthly marathon photograph credit, 327
Leader, J., photographs of Black-faced Bunting, 660, plates 302-3
Lehto, Henry, monthly marathon photograph credit, 440
Lester, D., note on Great Spotted Woodpecker apparently feeding on nectar, 40-1, plate 10
Levene, Jack, photographs of Pine Grosbeak, 488-9, plates 201, 205; of Tawny Pipit, 488, plate 203; of Pine Bunting, 488-9, plates 204, 207; of Laughing Gull, 489, plate 206; of Black-winged Stilt, 523, plate 224
Lewis, I. M., letter on English names, 620
Lilleleht, Vilju, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Limicola falcinellus, see Sandpiper, Broad-billed
Limnodromus griseus, see Dowitcher, Short-billed
—— *scolopaceus*, see Dowitcher, Long-billed
Limosa limosa, see Godwit, Black-tailed
Linnet, killed by Stone-curlew, 135
Locustella certhiola, see Warbler, Pallas's Grasshopper
—— *lanceolata*, see Warbler, Lanceolated
—— *luscinioides*, see Warbler, Savi's
—— *naevia*, see Warbler, Grasshopper
Loseby, Tim, photograph of Lanceolated Warbler, 65, plate 16; of White-throated Sparrow, 639, plate 295
Loxia curvirostra, see Crossbill
—— *leucoptera*, see Crossbill, Two-barred
—— *pytyopsittacus*, see Crossbill, Parrot
Lukac, Gordan, see Stipcevic, Mauricio
Lullula arborea, see Woodlark
Luscinia calliope, see Rubythroat, Siberian
—— *luscinia*, see Nightingale, Thrush
—— *megarhynchos*, see Nightingale
—— *svecica*, see Bluethroat

McCanch, N. V., note on a gynandromorphic House Sparrow, 675-6
——, ——, and McCanch, M., note on Song Thrush feeding on periwinkles, 618

McCarthy, G., note on Knot with cockle shell attached to leg, 240, plate 110
Macdonald, D., note on display by female Blackbird, 617
McDougall, Peter, note on Lesser Black-backed Gull corpse scavenged by sheep, 313
McGeehan, Anthony, photograph of Chiffchaff, 25, plate 7; of Rose-coloured Starling, 524, plates 228-9
——, ——, see Nightingale, Barry
Macintyre, R., photograph of Black Stork, 512, plate 215
McMahon, Eleanor, photographs of Franklin's Gull, 518, plates 220-1
McNeil, D. A. C., note on House Martins associating with hot-air balloon, 244; on use of House Martin nests by Blue Tits for breeding, 314-5
Madge, Graham, note on Buzzard with live common eel, 187-8
Madge, Steve, short review, 320
Magpie, cannibalism by, 87-8
Major, John, Conservation: the Prime Minister's personal views, 2-5, plate 1
Mallard, concealing posture, 35; drakes attempting to mate with dead female, 464, plate 193; letter on apparent imprinting of Little Grebe on female, 466
Mandarin, European news, 446
Marmaronetta angustirostris, see Duck, Marbled
Marshman, Paul, letter on sexual plumage dimorphism of adult Sparrowhawks, 569-70
Martin, Banded, European news, 10
——, Brown-throated Sand, European news, 454
——, Crag, European news, 10
——, House, nest preyed on by Kestrel, 188; autumn 1991, 207; juvenile singing, 242; feeding interactions with Pied Wagtails, 242-3; obtaining food from moss on roof, 243; sunning on ground, 243; associating with hot-air balloon, 244; nests used by Blue Tits for breeding, 314-5; spring 1992, 637
——, Sand, spring 1992, 636
Martins, Rod, review of Johnsgard: *Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse: birds of dry places*, 319
Melanitta fusca, see Scoter, Velvet
—— *nigra*, see Scoter, Common
—— *perspicillata*, see Scoter, Surf
Melanocorypha calandra, see Lark, Calandra
Merganser, Hooded, European news, 446-7; records 1989-90 considered escapes, 520
Mergus albellus, see Smew
—— *cucullatus*, see Merganser, Hooded
—— *merganser*, see Goosander
Merlin, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; talon-locking with Peregrine, 496; hunting at sea, 497; spring 1992, 646; evaded by Meadow Pipit settling near human being, 670
Merne, Oscar, J., note on birds' premonition of earthquake, 88-9
Merops apiaster, see Bee-eater
—— *orientalis*, see Bee-eater, Little Green
—— *superciliosus*, see Bee-eater, Blue-cheeked
Micropalama himantopus, see Sandpiper, Stilt
Miliaria calandra, see Bunting, Corn
Miller, John V., note on Golden Orioles drinking in flight, 245
Mills, Richard T., note on one Hen Harrier nestling feeding another, 186-7, plate 94
Milvus migrans, see Kite, Black
—— *milvus*, see Kite, Red
Mitchell, Barry, photograph of Red-backed Shrike, 205, plate 103; of Little Bunting, 517, plate 218
Mitchell, Dominic, short review, 116
Moffett, A. T., photographs of Willow Warbler sunning, 86, plates 35-6; of Buzzard, 582, plate 258
Monroe, Burt, L., the new DNA-DNA avian classification: what's it all about?, 53-61
Monthly marathon 5: 18, plate 9; 19, plate 37; 20, plate 38; 21, plate 98; 22, plate 115; 23, plate 132; 24, plate 145; 25, plate 181; 26, plate 214; 27, plate 256; 28, plate 265; 29, plate 322
Monticola saxatilis, see Thrush, Rock
—— *solitarius*, see Thrush, Blue Rock
Moon, Andrew, photographs of Lanceolated Warbler, 68, plate 22; of Long-toed Stint, 429-30, plates 170, 173
Moore, Allen S., note on Purple Sandpipers feeding by probing in turf, 241
Moore, C. C., note on Wilson's Petrel with legs ensnared in fishing mesh, 556
Moorhen, nest cup composed of polythene, 560, plate 243
Morris, A. J., note on immature Little Grebe attacking Black-headed Gull, 34-5; on aerial prey-capture technique of Little Gull, 36
Morris, P. I., note on Grey Wagtail dividing clutch between two nests, 313; on feeding behaviour of Marsh Tit, 313-4; letter on apparent tameness of rarities, 318; note on escape reaction of Knot from Peregrine, 465
Motacilla alba, see Wagtail, Pied
—— *cinerea*, see Wagtail, Grey
—— *citreola*, see Wagtail, Citrine
—— *flava*, see Wagtail, Yellow
Munsterman, Piet, photograph of Grasshopper Warbler, 70, plate 23; of Dunlin, 240, plate 111, correction, 688
Murrelet, Ancient, accepted records 1990-91, 532
Muscicapa dauurica, see Flycatcher, Brown
—— *striata*, see Flycatcher, Spotted
Mystery photographs: 175, plate 8; 176, plate 31; 177, plates 52-3; 178, plate 114; 179, plate 118; 180, plate 136; 181, plate 212; 182, plate 254; 183, plate 267; 184, plate 301
Mystery photographs, answers to: 174, 25-7;

175, 81-2; 176, 112-3; 177, 249-50; 178, 291-2; 179, 333-4; 180, 124-5; 181, 565-8; 182, 265-6; 183, 647-9

Neophron percnopterus, see Vulture, Egyptian
Netta rufina, see Pochard, Red-crested
Neufeldt, I., photograph of Crane, 591, plate 264
News and comment, 48-52, plates 14-15; 92-5; 139-40, plate 62; 195-9, plates 95-7; 258-61; 325-7; 384-6, plate 154; 466-8; 504-5, plate 505; 573-5, plate 255; 626-30, plates 290-2; 684-7, plates 319-21
Newton, Ian, short review, 321
Nicholls, Howard, photograph of Crested Tern, 83, 112, plates 31, 51
Nightingale, European news, 457; spring 1992, 638, 644
——, Thrush, accepted record 1991, 536; spring 1992, 645
Nightingale, Barry, short review, 369
——, ——, and Allsopp, Keith, seasonal reports, see Seasonal reports
——, ——, and McGeehan, Anthony, recent reports, see Recent reports
Nightjar, Egyptian, European news, 10
Nikiforov, M. E., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Norman, David, letter on Spectacled Warbler moult, 317
Nucifraga caryocatactes, see Nutcracker
Numenius arquata, see Curlew
—— *minutus*, see Whimbrel, Little
—— *phaeopus*, see Whimbrel
—— *tenuirostris*, see Curlew, Slender-billed
Nurney, Dave, review of Fry, Fry and Harris: *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers*, 572
Nutcracker, autumn 1991, 203, 205, 208-9, plates 101, 109; winter 1991/92, 486; accepted records 1991, 548, 575, plate 255
Nuthatch, European news, 461
Nyctea scandiaca, see Owl, Snowy
Nycticorax nycticorax, see Heron, Night

Obituaries: Dr John Dony, 196; Dr Boonsong Lekagul, 259-60; Hockley Clarke, 684; C. Douglas Deane, 684
Oceanites oceanicus, see Petrel, Wilson's
Oceanodroma leucorhoa, see Petrel, Leach's
Odell, Dave, mystery photograph 179, 292, 333-4, plates 118, 135
Odin, Nigel, note on Merlins hunting at sea, 497
O'Duffy, Frank, photograph of Lesser Yellowlegs, 523, plate 226
Oena capensis, see Dove, Namaqua
Oenanthe deserti, see Wheatear, Desert
—— *hispanica*, see Wheatear, Black-eared
—— *isabellina*, see Wheatear, Isabelline
—— *leucopyga*, see Wheatear, White-crowned Black
—— *oenanthe*, see Wheatear
—— *pleschanka*, see Wheatear, Pied
—— *xanthoprymna*, see Wheatear, Red-tailed
Ogilvie, M. A., short reviews, 320-1, 651
Oriole, Golden, drinking in flight, 245; spring 1992, 643
Oriolus oriolus, see Oriole, Golden
Orton, Richard, see Gipson, P.
Osborn, Kevin, photographs of Lanceolated Warbler, 74, plate 26; of Grasshopper Warbler, 74-5, plates 27-8; of Savannah Sparrow, 562, plate 246
Osprey, European news, 8; autumn 1991, 104; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633; spring 1992, 636-7
O'Sullivan, Oran, photograph of Demoiselle Crane, 590, plate 262
Otis tarda, see Bustard, Great
Otus scops, see Owl, Scops
Ouzel, Ring, European news, 12; spring 1992, 637-8, 640
Overseas bird tour survey, 211-37
Owl, Barn, European news, 9, 453; sharing nest site with Jackdaws, 378-9; nesting close to Tawny Owls, 379
——, Eagle, European news, 9, 453
——, Great Grey, European news, 10
——, Hawk, European news, 9
——, Little, European news, 453; grounded by aggressive Blackbird, 617-8
——, Long-eared, European news, 453; winter 1991/92, 484
——, Pygmy, European news, 10, 453
——, Scops, accepted record 1988, 532
——, Short-eared, apparently robbed by Kestrel, 188; European news, 454
——, Snowy, European news, 9, 453; accepted records 1990-91, 532; spring 1992, 638
——, Tawny, nesting close to Barn Owls, 379
——, Tengmalm's, European news, 10, 454
——, Ural, European news, 10, 454
Oxyura jamaicensis, see Duck, Ruddy
—— *leucocephala*, see Duck, White-headed

Pagophila eburnea, see Gull, Ivory
Palfrey, John, note on wing-spreading by foraging Wheatears, 672
Palmer, Phil, photograph of Lanceolated Warbler, 66, plate 120; of Blackburnian Warbler, 340, plate 137; of Lesser Crested Tern, 518, plate 223
Pandion haliaetus, see Osprey
Panurus biarmicus, see Tit, Bearded
Parker, J. G., letter on death of a Hume's Short-toed Lark, 246-7
Parr, Chris, see Combridge, Pete
Parr, Raymond, note on sequential polyandry by Golden Plovers, 309
Parula americana, see Parula, Northern
Parula, Northern, European news, 461
Parus ater, see Tit, Coal
—— *caeruleus*, see Tit, Blue
—— *cyanus*, see Tit, Azure
—— *major*, see Tit, Great
—— *palustris*, see Tit, Marsh

Passer domesticus, see Sparrow, House
—— *hispaniolensis*, see Sparrow, Spanish
—— *montanus*, see Sparrow, Tree
Passerina cyanea, see Bunting, Indigo
Paterson, A. M., Martínez Vilalta, A., and Dies, J. I., partial breeding failure of Audouin's Gull in two Spanish colonies in 1991, 97-100
Pelecanus crispus, see Pelican, Dalmatian
—— *onocrotalus*, see Pelican, White
—— *rufescens*, see Pelican, Pink-backed
Pelican, Dalmatian, European news, 6
——, Pink-backed, European news, 6, 444
——, White, European news, 444
Pennington, M. G., note on Ringed Plovers nesting in covered sites, 498-9
Peregrine, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; non-aggressive behaviour, 188-9; European news, 447; escape reaction of Knot from, 465; talon-locking with Merlin, 496; nesting beside Kestrels on urban chimney, 498
Perez, C. E., European news, 6-16, 443-63
Pernis apivorus, see Buzzard, Honey
Perry, Philip, 2nd place, Bird Photograph of the Year 1992, 295, plate 120; note on feeding behaviour of Little Stints, 309-10, plates 127-8
Petrel, Bulwer's, autumn 1991, 103; European news, 443
——, Leach's, autumn 1991, 103; visiting ships, 556; behaviour at dusk and night around yacht in mid Atlantic, 557-8; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632
——, Soft-plumaged, autumn 1991, 103; accepted record 1989, 510; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632
——, Storm, autumn 1991, 102-3
——, Wilson's, European news, 444; accepted record 1991, 510; legs snared in fishing mesh, 556
Petronia brachydactyla, see Sparrow, Pale Rock
Pétursson, Gunnlauger, European news, 443-63
Phalacrocorax aristotelis, see Shag
—— *carbo*, see Cormorant
—— *pygmeus*, see Cormorant, Pygmy
Phalarope, Grey, numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634
——, Red-necked, autumn 1991, 107; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632; spring 1992, 646
——, Wilson's, European news, 9, 451; autumn 1991, 107; accepted records 1989-91, 528
Phalaropus fulicarius, see Phalarope, Grey
—— *lobatus*, see Phalarope, Red-necked
—— *tricolor*, see Phalarope, Wilson's
Phasianus colchicus, see Pheasant
Pheasant, reaction to warning thump of rabbit, 134
Pheucticus ludovicianus, see Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
Philomachus pugnax, see Ruff
Phoenicopterus ruber, see Flamingo, Greater
Phoenicurus moussieri, see Redstart, Moussier's
—— *ochruros*, see Redstart, Black
—— *phoenicurus*, see Redstart
PhotoSpot: 33: White-breasted Kingfisher, 613-5, plates 288-9
Phylloscopus bonelli, see Warbler, Bonelli's
—— *borealis*, see Warbler, Arctic
—— *fuscatus*, see Warbler, Dusky
—— *inornatus*, see Warbler, Yellow-browed
—— *proregulus*, see Warbler, Pallas's
—— *schwarzi*, see Warbler, Radde's
—— *sibilatrix*, see Warbler, Wood
—— *trochiloides*, see Warbler, Greenish
—— *trochilus*, see Warbler, Willow
—— warblers, song by female: the influence of stress, 673-4
Pica pica, see Magpie
Picus canus, see Woodpecker, Grey-headed
Pinicola enucleator, see Grosbeak, Pine
Pintail, winter 1991/92, 483
Pipit, Blyth's, European news, 10, 457
——, Buff-bellied, European news, 457
——, Meadow, autumn 1991, 207; spring 1992, 637; evading Merlin by settling near human being, 670
——, Olive-backed, European news, 10, 14, plate 6, 457; autumn 1991, 208; accepted records 1990-91, 535, 541, plate 232
——, Pechora, autumn 1991, 207; European news, 457; accepted records 1990-91, 535, 541, plates 230-1
——, Red-throated, autumn 1991, 204, 209; accepted records 1990-91, 535-6, 541, plate 232; spring 1992, 636, 643
——, Richard's, European news, 10, 454, 457; autumn 1991, 204, 208; spring 1992, 637-8
——, Tawny, autumn 1991, 204; winter 1991/92, 486, plate 203; spring 1992, 638, 640
——, Tree, spring 1992, 637
——, Water, winter 1991/92, 485-6, plate 202
PJC Award 1992, 415-24; award presentation, 685, plate 321
Platalea alba, see Spoonbill, African
—— *leucorodia*, see Spoonbill
Plegadis falcinellus, see Ibis, Glossy
Plover, American Golden, European news, 8, 448; autumn 1991, 104-5, plate 41; winter 1991/92, 484; accepted records 1991, 525
——, Egyptian, European news, 448
——, Golden, sequential polyandry, 309; breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plate 140
——, Greater Sand, autumn 1991, 104-6, plate 43; European news, 448; accepted record 1991, 525
——, Grey, spring 1992, 638
——, Kentish, autumn 1991, 104; winter 1991/92, 484; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634

——, Kittlitz's Sand, European news, 8
——, Little Ringed, spring 1992, 637, 645
——, Pacific Golden, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 448; winter 1991/92, 484; accepted records 1990-91, 525; spring 1992, 646
——, Ringed, nesting in covered sites, 498-9
——, Sociable, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65; European news, 448; accepted records 1980-1991, 525
——, White-tailed, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65
Pluvialis apricaria, see Plover, Golden
—— *dominica*, see Plover, American Golden
—— *fulva*, see Plover, Pacific Golden
—— *squatarola*, see Plover, Grey
Pluvianus aegyptius, see Plover, Egyptian
Pochard, Red-crested, numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633
Podiceps cristatus, see Grebe, Great Crested
—— *grisegena*, see Grebe, Red-necked
—— *nigricollis*, see Grebe, Black-necked
Podilymbus podiceps, see Grebe, Pied-billed
Points of view: 18. Should exotics be condemned or cherished?, 334-5; 19. Crashes, 439-40
Polysticta stelleri, see Eider, Steller's
Porphyrula alleni, see Gallinule, Allen's
—— *martinica*, see Gallinule, American Purple
Porzana carolina, see Sora
—— *porzana*, see Crake, Spotted
—— *pusilla*, see Crake, Baillon's
Potts, Dick, short review, 368-9
Poulsen, J. Grynderup, and Sotherton, N. W., note on crow predation in recently cut set-aside land, 674-5
Pratincole, Black-winged, European news, 8, 448; breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65
——, Collared, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65; accepted records 1990, 522; spring 1992, 645
Prendergast, H. D. V., note on behaviour of Leach's Petrels at dusk and night around yacht in mid Atlantic, 557-8
Proctor, R., photographs of Pechora Pipit, 541, plates 230-1
Product reports: Beecher Mirage 7×30 wide-angle binoculars, 123; Swift Viewmaster telescope, 336-7
Prunella collaris, see Accentor, Alpine
—— *montanella*, see Accentor, Siberian
Prytherch, Robin, and Everett, Mike, news and comment, see News and comment
Pterodroma mollis, see Petrel, Soft-plumaged
Ptyonoprogne rupestris, see Martin, Crag
Puffin, spring 1992, 637
Puffinus assimilis, see Shearwater, Little
—— *gravis*, see Shearwater, Great
—— *griseus*, see Shearwater, Sooty
—— *yelkouan*, see Shearwater, Mediterranean
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, see Chough
Pyrrhula (pyrrhula) murina, see Bullfinch, Azores

Quail, spring 1992, 640
Quelea quelea, see Quelea, Red-billed
Quelea, Red-billed, European news, 14
Querner, U., see Berthold, P.

Rabbitts, Brian, review of Norman and Tucker: *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall, 2nd edn.*, 80
Radford, A. P., note on reaction of Pheasant to warning thump of rabbit, 134; on feeding association between Coal Tits and Woodcock, 314; on cloaca-pecking by Great Tit, 465
Raes, Marc, monthly marathon photograph credit, 261
Rail, Water, European news, 447
Raines, Malcolm, monthly marathon photograph credit, 687
Rallus aquaticus, see Rail, Water
Ramos, Jaime, see Bibby, Colin
Rarities Committee, news and announcements, 330-3, plate 134; report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1991, 507-54, plates 215-42
Rasmussen, Brian, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Rathbone, Peter and Marie, note on Stone-curlew killing adult Linnet, 135
Raven, European news, 461; spring 1992, 646
——, Fan-tailed, European news, 461
Recent reports: 52; 96; 140; 200; 262; 328; 386; 468; 506; 576; 630; 688
Recurvirostra avosetta, see Avocet
Redpoll, European news, 14
——, Arctic, autumn 1991, 209; accepted records 1976-91, 517, 549, plate 216; spring 1992, 640
Redshank, photograph, 295, plate 119; habitually swimming to avoid human beings, 311
——, Spotted, autumn 1991, 104
Redstart, autumn 1991, 208; spring 1992, 638
——, Black, spring 1992, 637
——, Moussier's, new to Britain and Ireland, 108-11, plates 46-50
Redwing, presumed aberrant showing characters of Eye-browed Thrush, 135-7; plumage and behaviour of aberrant, 137-8; autumn 1991, 208
Regulus ignicapillus, see Firecrest
—— *regulus*, see Goldcrest
Remiz pendulinus, see Tit, Penduline
Requests: 'Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World'—corrections wanted, rare breeding birds, Moroccan bird records and photographs, 47-8; scarce migrant records, autumn 1992 migration survey in Israel, 126; volunteers for ringing of waders in Bahrain, vagrants in Seychelles, do you

like 'BB' as it is?, 324-5; reprints on owls, 383; rare breeding birds, 503; status of Wood Duck, 630; colour-marked birds: a reminder, wing-tagged Hen Harriers, 667
Revett, J., see Kemp, J. B.
Reviews:
Alström and Colston: *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe*, 190-2
Brooke and Birkhead: *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology*, 79-80
Brucker, Gosler and Heryet: *The Birds of Oxfordshire*, 572
Bub: *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding*, 32
Deans *et al.*: *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire*, 650-1
Dymond: *The Birds of Fair Isle*, 318-9
Finlayson: *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar*, 368
Fry, Fry and Harris: *Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers*, 572
Guest and Hutcheson: *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire*, 573
Guest *et al.*: *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Cheshire and Wirral*, 650-1
Hume: *Birds*, 32-3
Il'icev and Zubakin: *Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion, vol.6, Part 1*, 33
Johnsgard: *Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse: birds of dry places*, 319
Knox: *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland, 6th edn*, 615
Norman and Tucker: *Where to Watch Birds in Devon and Cornwall, 2nd edn*, 80
Parmenter and Byers: *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic*, 192
Simms: *British Larks, Pipits and Wagtails*, 651
Stroud and Glue: *Britain's Birds in 1989-90*, 210
Trodd and Kramer: *The Birds of Bedfordshire*, 442-3
Voisin: *The Herons of Europe*, 78
Yeatman-Berthelot: *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver*, 114-5
Reynolds, Peter, see Booth, Chris J.
Rhodostethia rosea, see Gull, Ross's
Rhynchops flavirostris, see Skimmer, African
Richard Richardson Award 1992, The, 415-24; award presentation, 685, plate 320
Riddiford, Nick J., see Ellis, Peter M.
——, ——, and Harvey, Paul, identification of Lanceolated Warbler, 62-78, plates 16-29
Riemslag, Cees, photographs of Sparrowhawk, 131-2, plates 59-61
Riihimäki, Jouni, photographs of Siberian Rubythroat, 12, plates 3-4
Riley, Stephen J., note on Purple Sandpipers feeding inland outside breeding season, 241
Rinnhofer, Günter, photograph of Demoiselle Crane, 590, plate 263
Riparia cincta, see Martin, Banded
—— *paludicola*, see Martin, Brown-throated Sand
—— *riparia*, see Martin, Sand
Rissa tridactyla, see Kittiwake
Rix, Simon B., note on Long-tailed Tit apparently weaving its own tail into nest structure, 619
Roberts, Alan, photograph of Lanceolated Warbler, 66, plate 21
Robertson, Iain, identification pitfalls and assessment problems 14: Crane, 587-92
Robin, 'anting' with millipede, 189
——, White-throated, European news, 11, 457-8
Rogers, A., photograph of Lesser Scaup, 374, plate 151
Rogers, Angela, letter on Little Grebe apparently imprinted on female Mallard, 466
Rogers, M. J., Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1991, 507-54, plates 215-42
Roller, autumn 1991, 202, 204; accepted records 1989-91, 533-4; spring 1992, 646
Rook, feeding on carrion, 245
Rooke, Steve, short review, 116
Roosting: Hen Harrier, 129-30; Sparrowhawk, 130-3; Common Sandpiper, 241-2; Swallow, 616-7
Rosefinch, Scarlet, European news, 15, 461; spring 1992, 636, 644-6
Rubythroat, Siberian, European news, 11-12, plates 3-4
Ruff, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65; spring 1992, 640
Rumsey, Stephen, review of Bub: *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding*, 32
Ryan, J. F., see Fraser, P. A.

Saker, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; European news, 447
Sanderling, European news, 448; spring 1992, 642
Sandpiper, Baird's, European news, 8, 450; autumn 1991, 107; accepted records 1991, 526
——, Broad-billed, European news, 450; accepted records 1990-91, 526; spring 1992, 646
——, Buff-breasted, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 450-1; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634
——, Common, exceptionally large roost gathering, 241-2; European news, 451
——, Curlew, autumn 1991, 104; photograph, 602, plate 275
——, Green, autumn 1991, 104; European news, 451
——, Least, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 450; accepted records 1991, 526
——, Marsh, European news, 9, 451; breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plate 142; accepted records 1990-91, 527
——, Pectoral, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 450; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634
——, Purple, feeding inland outside breeding

season, 241; feeding by probing in turf, 241; spring 1992, 642
——, Semipalmated, European news, 8, 448-9; autumn 1991, 107; accepted record 1989, 526
——, Sharp-tailed, European news, 8
——, Spotted, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 451; accepted records 1991, 528; spring 1992, 642
——, Stilt, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 450; accepted record 1990, 526
——, Terek, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65; accepted records 1990-91, 527
——, Upland, autumn 1991, 107; accepted record Ireland 1991, 527
——, White-rumped, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 450; accepted records 1985-91, 523, 526, plate 225
——, Wood, European news, 451; spring 1992, 637
Saunders, David and Shirley, Blackburnian Warbler: new to the Western Palearctic, 337-43, plates 137-8
Saxicola rubetra, see Whinchat
—— *torquata*, see Stonechat
Scaup, European news, 7; photographs, plates 152-3
——, Lesser, European news, 7; new to the Western Palearctic, 370-6, plates 146-51; accepted records 1990-91, 516
Schmid, Hans, European news, 6-16
Scolopax rusticola, see Woodcock
Scoter, Common, feeding groups containing other species, 35-6; photograph, 608, plate 287; winter 1991/92, 483; spring 1992, 645
——, Surf, autumn 1991, 103; identification pitfalls and assessment problems, 437-9; accepted records 1990, 519
——, Velvet, winter 1991/92, 483
Scott, Greg, note on Kestrel apparently robbing Short-eared Owl, 188
Seal, Steve, photograph of Red-necked Grebe, 105, plate 39
Sears, Jane, note on extra-pair copulation by breeding male Mute Swan, 558-9
Seasonal reports: autumn 1991, part 1, non-passerines, 102-7, plates 39-44; autumn 1991, part 2, passerines, 201-10, plates 99-109; winter 1991/92, 482-9, plates 194-207; spring 1992, 636-47, plates 293-9
Serin, autumn 1991, 202; spring 1992, 637
——, Red-fronted, spring 1992, 636, 645
Serinus citrinella, see Finch, Citril
—— *pusillus*, see Serin, Red-fronted
—— *serinus*, see Serin
Seventy-five years ago, 5; 90; 111; 195; 248; 290; 369-70; 465; 494; 571; 621; 652
Shackleton, Keith, see Gillmor, Robert, *et al.*
Shag, mystery photograph, 81-3, plates 8, 30; European news, 444
Sharrock, J. T. R., review of Voisin: *The Herons of Europe*, 78; short reviews, 81, 146, 321, 369, 651-2; overseas bird tours survey, 211-37; note on Redshank habitually swimming to avoid human beings, 311; Points of view 19. Crashes, 439-40; review of Brucker, Gosler and Heryet: *The Birds of Oxfordshire*, 572; PhotoSpot 33: White-breasted Kingfisher, 613-5, plates 288-9; review of Deans *et al.*: *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire*, 650-1; of Guest *et al.*: *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Cheshire and Wirral*, 650-1
——, ——, Chandler, R. J., and Gillmor, Robert, the 'British Birds' Best Annual Bird Report Award, 299-308
——, ——, see Gillmor, Robert, *et al.*
——, ——, see Inskipp, T. P.
——, ——, see Lansdown, Peter
——, ——, see Smith, Don
Shaw, Geoff, see Dowell, Andy
Shearwater, Cory's, autumn 1991, 102-3; European news, 443; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632
——, Great, autumn 1991, 103
——, Little, autumn 1991, 103; European news, 444; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632
——, Mediterranean, European news, 6, 444; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632
——, Sooty, European news, 6; autumn 1991, 102-3
Shelduck, European news, 446
——, Ruddy, European news, 446; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 633
Shepherd, K. B., photograph of Pallas's Warbler, 490, plate 208
Shikra, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
Shirihai, Hadoram, European news, 6-16, 443-63; photograph of Long-toed Stint, 11, plate 2; review of Parmenter and Byers: *A Guide to the Warblers of the Western Palearctic*, 192
——, ——, and Christie, David A., raptor migration at Eilat, 141-86, plates 66-93
Short reviews: Alonso and Alonso, 320; Alonso and Alonso, 368; Baker, 81; Bates and Lowther, 320; Burton, 114; Christof, 368; Crumley, 651; Dicerbo, 115-6; Dwenger, 368-9; Eagle, 320; Gooders, 651; Goodfellow, 651; Goodwin, 116; Holt, 320; Hume, 320; Kirby, 651; Mackenzie, 116; Marzluff and Balda, 651-2; Mitcham, 320-1; Mountfort, 116; Ogilvie, 652; Oliver, 321; Pemberton, 116; Riddle, 321; Simenov and Michev, 369; Smith, 116; Stocker, 369; Summers-Smith, 369; Vaughan, 321; Walters, 81; Williams, 652
Shoveler, European news, 446
Shrike, Great Grey, autumn 1991, 208-9; eating hawthorn berries, 315; European news, 461; winter 1991/92, 486
——, Isabelline, European news, 13; autumn 1991, 208-9; accepted records 1989-91, 547
——, Lesser Grey, autumn 1991, 203-4, 207,

plate 99; accepted record 1991, 547; spring 1992, 645
——, Red-backed, autumn 1991, 204-5, 207, plate 103; spring 1992, 636, 644-6
——, Woodchat, autumn 1991, 201-2; accepted records 1988-90, 547; spring 1992, 640, 643
Sidwell, M. N., photograph of White-rumped Sandpiper, 523, plate 225
Simmons, K. E. L., note on sunning by a Willow Warbler, 86-7, plates 35-6; a life for ornithology: Stanley Cramp (1913-1987), 387-414, plates 155-67
Siskin, autumn 1991, 202, 207
Sitta europaea, see Nuthatch
Skimmer, African, European news, 453
Skua, Great, European news, 9
——, Long-tailed, European news, 9, 451-2; autumn 1991, 102-3, 106, plate 42; spring 1992, 644
——, Pomarine, autumn 1991, 103; exceptionally bold, 311-2, plates 129-30; winter 1991/92, 484; spring 1992, 638
——, South Polar, European news, 452
Skylark, exceptionally tame bird allowing itself to be picked up, 135; predation of nests by crows in recently cut set-aside land, 674-5
——, Oriental, European news, 454
Sleeman, Chris, photograph of Crane, 590, plate 261
Small, Brian, first-summer Hobbies in the New Forest, 251-5
Smart, John H., note on Mistle Thrush singing in flight at 60 m, 380-1
Smew, winter 1991/92, 483
Smith, Don, Sharrock, J. T. R., and Tidman, Roger, best recent black-and-white bird-photographs, 600-11, plates 272-87
Smith, James P., 2nd place, Bird Illustrator of the Year 1992, 415-24
Smith, Mavis B., note on Peregrines nesting beside Kestrels on urban chimney, 498
Snipe, Great, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65; accepted records 1989-91, 527
Somateria mollissima, see Eider
——, *spectabilis*, see Eider, King
Sora, autumn 1991, 104, 106, plate 44; accepted record 1991, 521
Sørensen, Søren, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Sotherton, N. W., see Poulsen, J. Grynderup
Sparrow, House, Black Kite feeding on, 495-6; spring 1992, 647; gynandromorphic individual, 675
——, Pale Rock, European news, 461
——, Savannah, in Shetland: second record for the Western Palearctic, 561-4, plate 246
——, Spanish, European news, 14; eating lizard, 499, plate 211
——, Tree, European news, 461
——, White-throated, European news, 462; spring 1992, 636, 639, plate 295
Sparrowhawk, roost, 130-3, plates 59-61; male rearing half-grown young single-handed, 133-4; numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; photograph, 296, plate 122; harrier-like hunting technique of female, 377; sexual plumage dimorphism of adult, 569-71
——, Levant, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plates 91-3
Spence, Ian, note on exceptionally bold Pomarine Skua, 311-2, plates 129-30
Spencer, Robert, review of Yeatman-Berthelot: *Atlas des Oiseaux de France en Hiver*, 114-5; the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, 117-22; review of Guest and Hutcheson: *Where to Watch Birds in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire*, 573
Spoonbill, European news, 7, 445; autumn 1991, 104; winter 1991/92, 483; photograph, 604, plate 278; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632
——, African, European news, 445
Starling, autumn 1991, 204, 205, plate 102
——, Rose-coloured, European news, 14, 461; autumn 1991, 205, 207, plate 102; accepted records 1987-91, 524, 548, plates 228-9
——, Spotless, European news, 14
Šťastný, Karel, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Stawarczyk, Tadeusz, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Stercorarius longicaudus, see Skua, Long-tailed
—— *maccormicki*, see Skua, South Polar
—— *pomarinus*, see Skua, Pomarine
—— *skua*, see Skua, Great
Sterna albifrons, see Tern, Little
—— *(albifrons) antillarum*, see Tern, Least
—— *anaethetus*, see Tern, Bridled
—— *bengalensis*, see Tern, Lesser Crested
—— *bergii*, see Tern, Crested
—— *caspia*, see Tern, Caspian
—— *dougallii*, see Tern, Roseate
—— *elegans*, see Tern, Elegant
—— *forsteri*, see Tern, Forster's
—— *hirundo*, see Tern, Common
—— *maxima*, see Tern, Royal
—— *paradisaea*, see Tern, Arctic
—— *repressa*, see Tern, White-cheeked
—— *sandvicensis*, see Tern, Sandwich
Still, Rob, note on plumage and behaviour of aberrant Redwing, 137-8
Stilt, Black-winged, autumn 1991, 104; photograph 296, plate 121; breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plate 139; accepted records 1991, 522, 524, plate 224; spring 1992, 644
Stint, Little, autumn 1991, 104; feeding behaviour, 309-10, plates 127-8
——, Long-toed, European news, 8, 11, plate 2; new to Britain and Ireland, 429-36, plates 170-80
——, Red-necked, European news, 450
——, Temminck's, autumn 1991, 104; winter 1991/92, 484; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634; spring 1992, 642
Stipčević, Mauricio, and Lukač, Gordan, note on breeding-range changes of Red-rumped

Swallow in Yugoslavia, 37-40
Stonechat, European news, 11, 458; autumn 1991, 205, 208, plate 105; accepted records of *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri* 1990-91, 536-7
Stone-curlew, European news, 8, 448; killing adult Linnet, 135; numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 634; spring 1992, 637-8
Stork, Black, autumn 1991, 104; European news, 444; accepted records 1990-91, 512-3, plate 215; spring 1992, 646
——, White, numbers in Britain and Ireland during 1986-90, 632; spring 1992, 642
Streptopelia decaocto, see Dove, Collared
—— *orientalis*, see Dove, Rufous Turtle
—— *senegalensis*, see Dove, Laughing
Strix aluco, see Owl, Tawny
—— *nebulosa*, see Owl, Great Grey
—— *uralensis*, see Owl, Ural
Sturnus roseus, see Starling, Rose-coloured
—— *unicolor*, see Starling, Spotless
—— *vulgaris*, see Starling
Sula leucogaster, see Booby, Brown
Sultana, Joe, and Gauci, Charles, European news, 6-16, 443-63
'Sunbird', photograph credits, plates 55-8
Surnia ulula, see Owl, Hawk
Swallow, autumn 1991, 202, 204; feeding live honeybees to their young, 616; roosting on ship at night, 616-7; spring 1992, 636
——, Ethiopian, European news, 10
——, Red-rumped, breeding-range changes in Yugoslavia, 37-40; autumn 1991, 204; European news, 454; accepted records 1988-91, 534-5; spring 1992, 640, 644
——, Tree, accepted record 1990, 534
Swan, Bewick's, 'water-boiling' display, 463-4; winter 1991/92, 483; accepted record of *C. c. columbianus* 1990, 513-4; spring 1992, 636
——, Mute, European news, 7, 445; extra-pair copulation by breeding male, 558-9
——, Whooper, European news, 445; 'water-boiling' display, 463-4; winter 1991/92, 483; spring 1992, 646
Swift, autumn 1991, 202; spring 1992, 638
——, Alpine, autumn 1991, 201-2; European news, 454; accepted records 1988-91, 533; spring 1992, 637, 640, 642
——, Chimney, autumn 1991, 209
——, Little, European news, 10; autumn 1991, 209; accepted record 1991, 533
——, Needle-tailed, European news, 10, 454; accepted records 1991, 532-3
——, Pacific, upgraded to Category A, 533
——, Pallid, European news, 10, 454
——, Plain, European news, 10
Sylvia atricapilla, see Blackcap
—— *borin*, see Warbler, Garden
—— *cantillans*, see Warbler, Subalpine
—— *communis*, see Whitethroat
—— *conspicillata*, see Warbler, Spectacled
—— *melanocephala*, see Warbler, Sardinian
—— *mystacea*, see Warbler, Ménétries's
—— *nana*, see Warbler, Desert
—— *nisoria*, see Warbler, Barred
—— *sarda*, see Warbler, Marmora's
—— *undata*, see Warbler, Dartford
Synthliboramphus antiquus, see Murrelet, Ancient
Syvertsen, Oivind, letter on status of Marsh Warbler in Norway, 89-90
Tachybaptus ruficollis, see Grebe, Little
Tachycineta bicolor, see Swallow, Tree
Tadorna ferruginea, see Shelduck, Ruddy
—— *tadorna*, see Shelduck
Tarsiger cyanurus, see Bluetail, Red-flanked
Taxonomy: DNA-DNA avian classification, 53-61
Taylor, David, photograph of Olive-backed Pipit, 14, plate 6; of Cuckoo, 607, plate 284; of Little Gull, 608, plate 286; note on aggressive Blackbird grounding Little Owl, 617-8
Teal, European news, 7, 446; autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483; accepted records of *A. c. carolinensis* 1985-90, 515
——, Baikal, European news, 7
——, Blue-winged, European news, 7, 446; autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483; accepted records 1990-91, 515
Terathopius ecaudatus, see Bateleur
Tern, Arctic, European news, 453; spring 1992, 644, 646
——, Black, European news, 453; spring 1992, 644
——, Bridled, European news, 9; autumn 1991, 107, plate 45; accepted records 1991, 531
——, Caspian, autumn 1991, 107; accepted records 1990-91, 530; spring 1992, 637
——, Common, European news, 453; photograph, 601, plate 273; spring 1992, 638
——, Crested, European news, 9; mystery photograph, 83, 112-3, plates 31, 51
——, Elegant, European news, 453
——, Forster's, accepted records Ireland 1991, 531
——, Gull-billed, autumn 1991, 107; European news, 453; accepted records 1991, 530; spring 1992, 644
——, Least, autumn 1991, 107
——, Lesser Crested, European news, 453; accepted records 1990-91, 518, 530-1, plate 223; spring 1992, 646
——, Little, European news, 453; spring 1992, 638
——, Roseate, European news, 9; spring 1992, 645
——, Royal, accepted record 1987, 530; mystery photograph 182, 568, 593-4, plates 254, 266
——, Sandwich, European news, 453; spring 1992, 637
——, Whiskered, European news, 9
——, White-cheeked, European news, 9; photograph, 127, plate 55
——, White-winged Black, autumn 1991, 107;

spring 1992, 644
Thévenot, Michel, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Thies, Bernd, photograph of Steppe Buzzard, 175, plate 89
Thompson, Brian, note on recently fledged Long-tailed Tits in February, 618-9
Threskiornis aethiopicus, see Ibis, Sacred
Thrush, Black-throated, European news, 459
——, Blue Rock, European news, 12
——, Dusky, autumn 1991, 209; European news, 459
——, Eye-browed, European news, 12, 458; characters of shown by presumed aberrant Redwing, 135-7; autumn 1991, 208; accepted record 1991, 538
——, Gray-cheeked, autumn 1991, 207-8; European news, 458; accepted record 1991, 538, 542-3, plates 236, 239; photographs, 568, plate 251-2
——, Hermit, photograph, 567, plate 249
——, Mistle, autumn 1991, 202; singing in flight at 60 m, 380-1
——, Pale, European news, 458
——, Rock, European news, 458
——, Siberian, accepted record 1976 rejected, 538; spring 1992, 636
——, Song, photograph, 567, plate 248; feeding on periwinkles, 618
——, Swainson's, mystery photograph 181, 565-8, plates 247-8; autumn 1991, 208; accepted record 1991, 538
——, White's, European news, 12, 458; autumn 1991, 208; accepted record 1990, 538
——, Wood, photograph, 568, plate 253
Tibbles, Maurice, see Wyllie, Ian
Tichodroma muraria, see Wallcreeper
Tidman, Roger, photographs of 'Bird Photograph of the Year 1992' award, 627, plates 290-1
——, ——, see Smith, Don
Tipling, David, photograph of Lanceolated Warbler, 65, plate 17; of American Golden Plover, 105, plate 41; of Long-tailed Skua, 106, plate 42; of Sora, 106, plate 44; of eastern race of Stonechat, 205, plate 105; of Bobolink, 206, plate 107; of Laughing Gull, 485, plate 197; of White-breasted Kingfisher, 613, plate 288; of Pied-billed Grebe, 641, plate 299
Tit, Azure, European news, 461
——, Bearded, European news, 13, 460-1; autumn 1991, 204
——, Blue, as pollinators of the crown imperial, 41-3, plates 11-13; using House Martin nests for breeding, 314-5; eating algae, 381; possible sap-sucking, 381-2; drinking sap, 382
——, Coal, feeding association with Woodcock, 314; eating algae, 381
——, Great, attempted copulation during snowfall and freezing conditions, 315; European news, 461; cloaca-pecking, 465
——, Long-tailed, eating algae, 381; possible sap-sucking, 381-2; recently fledged in February, 618-9; apparently weaving its own tail into nest structure, 619
——, Marsh, feeding behaviour, 313-4
——, Penduline, European news, 13, 461; autumn 1991, 204, 207; winter 1991/92, 486; accepted records 1989-91, 546-7
Tomkovich, Pavel S., breeding-range and population changes of waders in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plates 139-44
Tomlinson, David, short review, 321
Treecreeper, Short-toed, accepted record 1991, 545-6
Tringa erythropus, see Redshank, Spotted
—— *flavipes*, see Yellowlegs, Lesser
—— *glareola*, see Sandpiper, Wood
—— *melanoleuca*, see Yellowlegs, Greater
—— *ochropus*, see Sandpiper, Green
—— *stagnatilis*, see Sandpiper, Marsh
—— *totanus*, see Redshank
Trodd, Paul, mystery photograph 175, 81-2, plate 30
Tryngites subruficollis, see Sandpiper, Buff-breasted
Turdus iliacus, see Redwing
—— *merula*, see Blackbird
—— *naumanni*, see Thrush, Dusky
—— *obscurus*, see Thrush, Eye-browed
—— *pallidus*, see Thrush, Pale
—— *philomelos*, see Thrush, Song
—— *pilaris*, see Fieldfare
—— *ruficollis*, see Thrush, Black-throated
—— *torquatus*, see Ouzel, Ring
—— *viscivorus*, see Thrush, Mistle
Twite, European news, 461; eating seaweed, 619
Tyrberg, Tommy, European news, 443-63
Tyto alba, see Owl, Barn

Upupa epops, see Hoopoe
Uria lomvia, see Guillemot, Brünnich's

van den Berg, Arnoud, European news, 6-16, 443-63; photograph of Wallcreeper, 13, plate 5; note on Crested Coots knob-nibbling, 560-1, plates 244-5; photograph of Nutcracker, 575, plate 255; of Black-faced Bunting, 660, plate 304; note on mirror-fighting by Grey Wagtail in winter, 670-2, plates 314-5
Vanellus vanellus, see Lapwing
Veery, photograph, 567, plate 250
Vermivora chrysoptera, see Warbler, Golden-winged
—— *peregrina*, see Warbler, Tennessee
—— *ruficapilla*, see Warbler, Nashville
Vireo flavifrons, see Vireo, Yellow-throated
—— *olivaceus*, see Vireo, Red-eyed
Vireo, Red-eyed, autumn 1991, 207-8; accepted records 1990-91, 548-9
——, Yellow-throated, accepted record 1990, 548
Voice: House Martin, 242; Mistle Thrush,

380-1; *Phylloscopus* warblers, 673-4
Vowles, Glenis A., note on unusual nest sites of Dartford Warbler, 672-3
Vulture, Black, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86
——, Egyptian, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86, plate 67; European news, 447
——, Griffon, numbers migrating at Eilat, 141-86; drowning in sea, 186; possibly occurring in Co. Cork, 186; European news, 447

Wagtail, Citrine, European news, 11, 457; autumn 1991, 207-8; accepted records 1991, 536, 544, plate 240
——, Grey, European news, 11, 457; dividing clutch between two nests, 313; mirror-fighting in winter, 670-2, plates, 314-5
——, Pied, feeding interaction with House Martins, 242-3; European news, 457
——, Yellow, autumn 1991, 202, 204; European news, 457; accepted record of *M. f. feldegg* 1985, 536; spring 1992, 637, 640, 643, 646
Walasz, Kazimierz, note on Woodpigeon using moving lorry to evade hunting Goshawk, 670
Waliczky, Zoltán, European news, 6-16, 443-63
Walker, A. R., letter on shell identification, 620
Wallcreeper, European news, 11, 13, plate 5
Wallen, Michael S., photograph of Mediterranean Gull, 484, plate 196; note on talon-locking between Merlin and Peregrine, 496; photograph of Black-eared Wheatear, 640, plate 296
Walsh, David, see Holman, David J.
Warbler, Aquatic, autumn 1991, 202; European news, 459
——, Arctic, autumn 1991, 204, 207; European news, 459; accepted records 1991, 540; evading Hobby by settling near human beings, 673
——, Barred, autumn 1991, 202, 204, 207; European news, 459
——, Black-throated Blue, European news, 461
——, Black-throated Green, European news, 461-2
——, Blackburnian, new to the Western Palearctic, 337-43, plates 137-8
——, Blackpoll, accepted record 1991, 550
——, Blyth's Reed, autumn 1991, 204
——, Bonelli's, European news, 13; autumn 1991, 204; accepted records 1990-91, 544-5, plate 241
——, Booted, European news, 12, 459; autumn 1991, 204-5, plate 106; accepted record 1991, 539; spring 1992, 636, 639, 645, plate 294
——, Cetti's, European news, 459
——, Clamorous Reed, plumage variation in Israel, 83-5, plates 32-4
——, Dartford, spring 1992, 638; unusual nest sites, 672-3
——, Desert, autumn 1991, 205, 208-9, plate 104; European news, 459; accepted record 1991, 539-40
——, Dusky, autumn 1991, 208; European news, 460; accepted records 1990-91, 545
——, Fan-tailed,. European news, 12
——, Garden, spring 1992, 638
——, Golden-winged, new to the Western Palearctic, 595-600, plates 268-71
——, Grasshopper, identification, 62-78, plates 23-5, 27-8; spring 1992, 637, 646
——, Great Reed, autumn 1991, 208; mystery photograph 177, 114, 249-50, plates 52-3, 112-3; accepted records 1990-91, 539; spring 1992, 644
——, Greenish, autumn 1991, 202, 204, 207; accepted records 1989-91, 540; spring 1992, 636, 640, 644
——, Icterine, autumn 1991, 204; letter on breeding record in Yorkshire in 1970, 247; spring 1992, 636, 643-5
——, Lanceolated, identification, 62-78, plates 16-22, 26; autumn 1991, 208; European news, 459; accepted records 1990-91, 538-9
——, Marmora's, spring 1992, 636, 644-5
——, Marsh, European news, 12; status in Norway, 89-90; autumn 1991, 204; spring 1992, 636, 644-5
——, Melodious, photograph, 606, plate 283
——, Ménétries's, European news, 459
——, Moustached, European news, 459
——, Nashville, autumn 1991, 208
——, Olivaceous, European news, 12; autumn 1991, 207
——, Paddyfield, European news, 12, 459; spring 1992, 636
——, Pallas's, identification pitfalls and assessment problems 13: 490-4, plates 208-10; autumn 1991, 208-9; European news, 459-60; winter 1991/92, 486
——, Pallas's Grasshopper, European news, 459; accepted records 1990, 540
——, Radde's, European news, 13, 460; autumn 1991, 203, 208, plate 100; accepted records 1990-91, 540-5, plate 242
——, Reed, autumn 1991, 202
——, Sardinian, European news, 459; accepted records 1990-91, 539; spring 1992, 636, 644-5
——, Savi's, autumn 1991, 202
——, Sedge, autumn 1991, 207; spring 1992, 637
——, Spectacled, European news, 13; letter on moult, 317; spring 1992, 636, 644
——, Subalpine, accepted records 1990-91, 539; spring 1992, 636, 640, 642, 644
——, Tennessee, autumn 1991, 208; mystery photograph 183, 595, 647-9, plates 267, 300
——, Thick-billed, European news, 459
——, Upcher's, European news, 459

——, Willow, sunning, 86-87, plates 35-6; autumn 1991, 202; European news, 460; spring 1992, 637
——, Wood, spring 1992, 638
——, Yellow-browed, European news, 13, 460; autumn 1991, 208; winter 1991/92, 486
——, Yellow-rumped, European news, 462
Warden, D., note on Lesser Black-backed Gull apparently begging from Great Black-backed Gull, 378
Warren, Derrick, note on exceptionally tame Skylark allowing itself to be picked up, 135
Watson, Frederick J., note on Blackbird eating ice-cream, 244
Watson, J., and Dennis, R. H., nest-site selection by Golden Eagles in Scotland, 469-81
Watson, Mike K., photograph of Pallas's Warbler, 490, plate 209
Waxwing, European news, 11, 457; autumn 1991, 209; winter 1991/92, 485-6
Wells, Martin, note on Goosander spinning, 239
Weston, Mike, photograph of Woodpigeon, 297, plate 125; note on drake Mallards attempting to mate with dead female, 464, plate 193; photograph of King Eider, 605, plate 280; of Grey Heron, 605, plate 281
Wheatear, autumn 1991, 202; spring 1992, 636-7; wing-spreading, 672
——, Black-eared, European news, 458; spring 1992, 640, 642, plate 296; wing-spreading, 672
——, Desert, autumn 1991, 208-9; European news, 458; winter 1991/92, 486; accepted records 1991, 537-8; wing-spreading, 672
——, Isabelline, autumn 1991, 208; accepted records 1990-91, 537, 542-3, plates 235, 238 ; wing-spreading, 672
——, Pied, European news, 11, 458; autumn 1991, 208; mystery photograph 178, 251, 291-2, plates 114, 117; winter 1991/92, 486; accepted records 1991, 537, 542-3, plates 234, 237; wing-spreading, 672
——, Red-tailed, European news, 458; wing-spreading, 672
——, White-crowned Black, European news, 458; wing-spreading, 672
Whimbrel, autumn 1991, 104; spring 1992, 638, 640
——, Little, breeding-range and population changes in the former Soviet Union, 344-65, plate 144
Whinchat, spring 1992, 640
Whitethroat, spring 1992, 638
Whittaker, Andrew, note on exceptionally large roost gathering of Common Sandpipers, 241-2
Wigeon, winter 1991/92, 483
——, American, autumn 1991, 103; winter 1991/92, 483; accepted records 1990-91, 514
Wilczur, Jan, 3rd place, Bird Illustrator of the Year 1992, 415-24
Wilde, N. A. J., note on Swallows feeding live honeybees to their young, 616
Wildfowl, eating potatoes, 495
Wilkinson, David M., note on Rooks feeding on carrion, 245; on bark-tearing by Goldcrest, 381
Wilmshurst, Roger, photograph of Buzzard, 581, plate 257
Woodcock, feeding association with Coal Tits, 314
Woodlark, rapid occupation of tree nursery, 379-80; feeding under cover, 380; winter 1991/92, 485; spring 1992, 638, 646
Woodpecker, Great Spotted, apparently feeding on nectar, 40-1, plate 10
——, Grey-headed, winter 1991/92, 485
——, Syrian, European news, 10
Woodpigeon, photograph, 297, plate 125; winter 1991/92, 485; using moving lorry to evade hunting Goshawk, 670
Woolley, S. K., note on Kestrel preying on House Martin nest, 188; on Blue Tit drinking sap, 382
Wryneck, autumn 1991, 202, 207-8; European news, 454
Wyllie, Ian, and Tibbles, Maurice, male Sparrowhawk rearing half-grown young single-handed, 133-4

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus, see Blackbird, Yellow-headed
Xenus cinereus, see Sandpiper, Terek

Yellowhammer, photograph, 606, plate 282
Yellowlegs, Greater, European news, 9; spring 1992, 636, 644
——, Lesser, European news, 9, 451; autumn 1991, 107; accepted records 1990-91, 524, 527, plate 226; spring 1992, 640, 642
Young, Steve, photograph of Rose-coloured Starling and Starling, 205, plate 102; of Booted Warbler, 205, plate 106; of Nutcracker, 206, plate 109; monthly marathon photograph of Swallow, 261, plate 115; photograph of Lesser Crested Tern, 518, plate 223; of Booted Warbler, 638, plate 294

Zonfrillo, B., note on Spanish Sparrow eating lizard, 499, plate 211
Zonotrichia albicollis, see Sparrow, White-throated
Zoothera dauma, see Thrush, White's
—— *sibirica*, see Thrush, Siberian

BOOKS—*Handle with Care*

Name

Address

.....

.....

If undelivered, please return to London Journal Bindery
Roslin Road, London W8 3DH

To London Journal Bindery
Roslin Road, London W8 3DH

I enclose cheque/P.O. for for binding
(*The rate for binding is £17.95 per volume*)

Please fill in your name and address in both spaces on this page

Please protect your issues and pack carefully when posting

If you require an acknowledgment, please *enclose an SAE* and also fill in your name and address in the space below; the lower half of this sheet will then be sent back to you as a receipt; the upper is the label for the return of your bound volume.

Name

Address

.....

.....

P.T.O.

Please complete
the binding form
overleaf

Receipt for *British Birds* binding

From London Journal Bindery,
Roslin Road, London W8 3DH

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your issues of British Birds *for binding, and your cheque/P.O. for* £

Date

LONDON JOURNAL BINDERY

Printed in England by **Newnorth Print Limited,** Kempston, Bedford.

Riley Dunn & Wilson Ltd
EXPERT CONSERVATORS & BOOKBINDERS